

Hafa Adai!

Susupe fire renders 16 people homeless. PAGE 2  
Kilili says 2,563 PUA/PFUC applications remain unprocessed. PAGE 8

\$1

# Saipan Tribune



## 'HOUSE OF THE SUMMER'

Members of the House of Kepuha rejoice after being recognized as the first "House of the Summer" during 4-H Marianas' Summer Camp Maga'Lahi, which was recently held on Rota. 4-H Marianas, in collaboration with Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services, held the camp on Saipan and Tinian as well.

NMC

# Alleged driver in Marpi hit-and-run is arrested

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety arrested over the weekend a 17-year-old male believed to have been the driver of the vehicle involved in the hit-and-run that claimed the life of a 20-year-old woman in Marpi.

According to DPS spokesperson Dre Panglinan, official charges have been filed against the 17-year-old who was identified as the driver of the car that struck and killed 20-year-old Sophia A. Demapan on the night of July 27.

Panglinan said Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio signed and issued an arrest warrant for the

suspect at about 1:32pm last Saturday. The male suspect is facing charges of racing on the highway, speeding, reckless driving, operators' failure to exercise due care, accident, failure to report an accident, and homicide by vehicle. His bail has been set at \$100,000.

At around 5:09pm that same day, police executed the

See DRIVER on Page 4

## Checks for 1,177 fishermen by early September

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Early next month, a total of 1,177 commercial fishermen

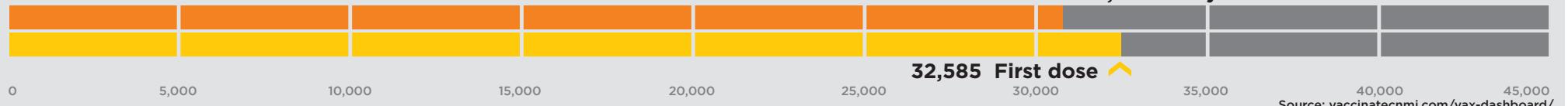
and subsistence fishermen in the CNMI affected by the COVID-19 pandemic may start receiving their checks, with the money coming out of the

\$980,000 fisheries assistance allocated for the CNMI under the Coronavirus, Recovery, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act.

Office of Grants Management administrator Epiphonio Cabrera disclosed in an interview Wednesday that he

See CHECKS on Page 4

## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



## INSIDE



### LOCAL

Saipan Vegas: New law that doubles the tax on e-gaming facilities may force shutdown.

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### LOCAL

Kagman High School's Class of 2006 repaint the school's parking lot and plant flame trees.

PAGE 7



### LOCAL

U.S. service members on Tinian are making sure that protecting the environment is a priority.

PAGE 15



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# Local

## Susupe fire renders 16 people homeless

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter responded late Thursday evening to a home fire on Bekka Street in Susupe that affected six families.

Red Cross volunteer responders received a call of a structure fire in Susupe around 11pm Thursday evening and volunteers Janet Santos, Joe Jetnil, Richard Defan, and Triana Zhu were able to help displaced residents on scene. There was a total of 16 clients

from six households that were displaced by the fire.

"We are relieved that no one was hurt during this unfortunate incident," said Santos, the lead caseworker on scene with the American Red Cross. "We are glad that we are able to help the families and provide them with some assistance as they recover from this unfortunate incident."

"We are grateful for all the support from our commu-

nity, and most especially our donors over the years," said Defan, another Red Cross volunteer caseworker on scene.

"It is really because of their support that we are able to come out and provide hope and comfort to people affected by disasters."

**Simple steps to save lives**  
The Red Cross is calling on everyone to take two simple

steps that can save lives: practice fire drills at home and check existing smoke alarms.

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire:

- If someone doesn't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary and there may be additional require-

ments where someone lives.

- If someone does have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.
- Make sure that everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.
- Practice the fire escape

plan. What's the household's escape time?

### WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO

People can visit [redcross.org/homefires](http://redcross.org/homefires) to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved homes from fire. They can become a Red Cross volunteer by contacting the local chapter office at 670-234-3459 or by visiting our website at [www.redcross.org/nmi](http://www.redcross.org/nmi). (PR)

## 8 PSS students to take NMTI courses as part of pilot program

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
[joshua\\_santos@saipantribune.com](mailto:joshua_santos@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Eight CNMI Public School System students will be taking Northern Marianas Technical Institute courses alongside their high school coursework this new school year as part of a pilot program between PSS and NMTI.

In the long-term, the goal is to have a "Career Pathways" program in place that will function like a dual-enrollment program, allowing students to take NMTI classes during high school and seamlessly transition into NMTI's courses after graduation, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao on Thursday.

Beginning Aug. 17, eight students who participated in PSS' Construction Boot Camp over the summer will be taking three NMTI courses during after-school hours in addition to their high school coursework. Attao said the three courses are NMTI's Core course—which teaches the fundamen-

tals of trades such as practicing safety—Carpentry I, and Carpentry II.

For the pilot program, Attao simply hopes that the students "stick through it" and walk away with valuable life skills. "We're hoping that they stick through it, gain the skills, and [we hope] that we really guide them to expand their [career] opportunities in construction services," said Attao.

As far as the finer details of the "Career Pathways" program, Attao said everything for now remains tentative.

The eight students recently completed PSS' Construction Boot Camp, which was part of PSS' Career and Technical and Education Program. Over the summer, the students experienced hands-on and instructional lessons in construction with the help of public and private partners.

Also part of the CTE program this summer was a Teacher Academy Program, Nursing Assistant Program, and Entrepreneurship Program.

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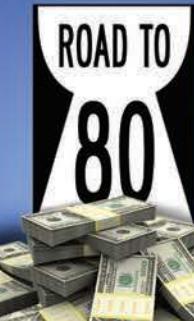


Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

### AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/07/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
  - A. Certification of Adoption on the Amendment to the Pharmacist, Pharmacy Intern, certified Pharmacy Technician, and Pharmacy Technician Regulations – Ends August 14, 2021
  - B. Ad Hoc Committee report on the three proposed regulations – Up for Adoption
    - Psychology
    - Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
    - Addiction Professional
  - C. Update on the amendment to P.L. 15-105 – Removal of Limited Terms for HCPLB
  - D. Letter from Peter Brett, MD (Lic. #0694)
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  - A. Governor's Office
  - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
  - Executive Director's Contract
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  - A. New Application
  - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  - Dr. E. Chang – Physician
  - Dr. S. Shushunov – Physician
  - Dr. L. Rogatnick – Physician
- XV. Announcements
  - A. Next Meeting Date
  - B. Adjournment of Meeting

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# \$15K bail for man accused of sexual abuse of minor

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho has maintained the \$15,000 bail that was initially set for a man who was arrested last week for allegedly touching the breast of his 13-year-old tenant and showing her his genitals.

During a bail hearing last Friday, Camacho retained the initial bail set for Renato T. Tabuena, 61, while Office of the Attorney General's Chester Hinds, who represents the government, affirmed that the victim does not reside near the defendant's proposed third-party custodian.

Tabuena, who is charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree, indecent exposure in the second degree, and disturbing the peace, was remanded back to the Department of Correction following the bail hearing and is scheduled to return to court today for a bail modification.

He was also scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Aug. 12 at 11am before Camacho and again on Aug. 23 at 9am before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja for his arraignment.

According to court documents, Tabuena allegedly groped the breast of the 13-year-old girl while she was outside her home and was playing with outdoor cats. He also allegedly flashed the minor.

Separately, a police report

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# CPA's King-Hinds is the new APP president

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
 kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The CNMI, through Commonwealth Ports Authority chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, has assumed the position of president of the Association of Pacific Ports, over 20 years since the CNMI last held the position.

According to King-Hinds, aside from it being an honor, taking on the role as president ultimately means improvements for CPA. "It's just another opportunity to explore how CPA can continue to improve so as improve the lives of the people of the CNMI," she said.

The last time the CNMI held the



King-Hinds

position, according to King-Hinds, was over 20 years ago with Antonio S. Camacho at the helm of CPA.

"Based on the bylaws, [presidency] rotates but CPA has not taken it in over 20 years," she said.

King-Hinds said she is looking forward to the new role she will be taking on. "I'm looking forward to leading the APP and working with everyone to improve our port community through sharing knowledge and resources to benefit the communities we serve," she said during the annual APP meeting last July 29.

Essentially, King-Hinds' new role means she'll be actively involved in advancing the mission of the organization, which is to promote efficiency and effectiveness in ports across the Pacific," she said.

According to a press release from APP, King-Hinds took on the role following Ian Marr from the Port of Nanaimo.

"The Association of Pacific Ports is very pleased to welcome Kimberlyn King-Hinds as our newly elected

President," APP stated.

"As chair of the CPA board of directors, King-Hinds has had a distinguished career balancing the practice of law in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and serving the public in various capacities. Currently in private practice addressing areas of family law, probate law and

general civil litigation, King-Hinds is also currently the conflict counsel for the NMI Settlement Fund and legal counsel for the Tinian Mayor's Office. King-Hinds also currently devotes numerous hours serving the people of the CNMI on various government advisory boards and non-profit organizations," APP added.

## \$6K federal financial aid for NMC students

New college students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's fall and spring semester are encouraged to file a 2021-2022 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Students should submit a FAFSA before the fall semester starts on Aug. 16, 2021.

Qualified students can receive up to \$6,495 in federal financial aid for the academic year. The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Through the program's various types of grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

## House OKs bill to promote economic development

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
 ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed last week a bill that seeks to promote economic development in the CNMI and increase the Commonwealth competitiveness for private sector investment.

House Bill 22-70, also known as the Investment Incentive Act of 2021, now goes to the Senate for action.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is the author of the bill, said the bill updates the CNMI's Qualifying Certificate Program to ensure that the CNMI's economy thrives for generations to come.

"There will also be opportunities for existing businesses to avail for these incentives for eligible expansion projects, finally leveling the playing field for many of our longstanding locally

The FAFSA is available online at [fafsa.ed.gov](https://fafsa.ed.gov) and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at [fao@marianas.edu](mailto:fao@marianas.edu) or call 237-6791. Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of

science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, social work, or pre-engineering), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about the fall 2021 Semester, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at [oar@marianas.edu](mailto:oar@marianas.edu) or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (PR)

owned businesses," he said.

The lawmaker said these businesses have been here for decades, in good times and in bad, so it's only fair that they be allowed to avail of incentives to further expand their business activities.

Demapan thanked the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism chaired by Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan) for recommending passage of the legislation.

He also extended his gratitude to the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers and the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority for the opportunity to work together in moving this legislation through the House.

Under the bill, CEDA is required to produce a "targeted industry" listing, determining the industries eligible to apply for a Qualifying Certificate in line with the five-year economic

development goals of the Commonwealth.

CEDA shall revisit the Targeted Industry listing at least once per calendar year and, if necessary, update it.

Any business which is either a trust, a partnership, a sole proprietorship, a corporation, a limited liability corporation or a limited liability partnership is eligible to apply for one or more of the areas listed in the Targeted Industry list.

Three new subsections are also added to read that CEDA, in including industries for eligibility within the Targeted Industry listing, shall categorize industries using the North American Industry Classification System codes associated with the industry.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DRIVER

From Page 1

warrant and transported the minor to the Department of Corrections to be detained.

Minors are not identified per standard media practice, unless already identified in other platforms such as social media and the post is independently verified.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from sources that Demapan's family mem-

bers believe there may be more to the incident than just a simple hit-and-run and they believe that justice has yet to be served and they continue to seek answers. They are urging anyone to speak up if they have any information that could give their family the closure and the answers they need.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Demapan's body was found by a person who was driving home at around 9pm last Tuesday and had noticed her body on the shoulder of Route 30 in Marpi. The caller imme-

diately stopped to help and called the police for assistance.

At the scene, police noticed tire marks near where they found the victim. Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services responders saw multiple lacerations and deformities on the female's body. In addition, the officers also noticed that she sustained multiple fractures and severe injuries to her head.

The woman was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center at 1am.

received an email from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission last July 27 that checks may be out in early September.

## CHECKS

From Page 1

Cabrera said Bissell stated that they're all hands on deck and are working as hard as they can and as fast as they can, but it's going to take several weeks.

Employees are able to submit requests for vaccine exemptions due to legitimate religious or medical reasons. Those granted exemptions will still need to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing and "other preventative requirements." This was all learned from an Aug. 6 press release from Honolulu, Hawaii published on the behalf of BOH, FHB, and TSB.

Cabrera said Bissell recommended the release of checks by early September and that if it's sooner, then that would be great.

"It's all off our hands already," said Cabrera, adding that all he can say is for the public to be patient.

Cabrera said there were 698 applicants on Saipan, 355 on Tinian, and 152 on Rota, for a total of 1,205 applicants. He said eight commercial fishermen and 20 subsistence fishermen, or a total of 28, were found non-eligible. Cabrera said this means 1,177 were deemed eligible to receive assistance.

Foreign workers—workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Workers Program—are eligible for the program.

Cabrera said reasons for denials include incomplete tax forms and duplication of documents.

He estimated that each commercial fisherman will get an average of \$5,875, while subsistence fishermen will get \$713 each. He said there's a small tax.

The OGM administrator also disclosed that they are expecting the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to roll out CARES Act fishing assistance part 2 soon.

He said DLNR Fish and Wildlife will be assisting in rolling out the fishing assistance Part 2 because OGM is overwhelmed and overextended.

Last March 29, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce announced the allocation of an additional \$255 million in fisheries assistance funding. The CNMI will get \$411,002 of that allocation.

# 'New law that doubles tax may force shutdown'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A company that owns two e-gaming clubs in the CNMI expressed disappointment yesterday over the passage of a bill and its enactment last week—all without any public hearing and no notice to affected businesses—and described it as unfair because it doubles their tax burden.

Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 consultant Gus Noble said yesterday that this law renders their businesses financially unstable and could force them to shut down, resulting in the loss of jobs for over 70 Saipan local residents.

Noble said they are already paying the highest taxes on the island because they paid in advance of a 15% gaming tax. Noble said they're also paying the 5% Business Gross Revenue and Tax, plus a \$100,000 annual license fee per venue per year.

This, he said, is on top of the regular CNMI income tax.

"So we're already really heavily taxed," he pointed out.

Last week, Monday, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres signed into Saipan Local Law 22-6, House Local Bill 22-8, S1, that imposes a local license fee on all electronic gaming devices on Saipan and poker amusement machines in the same e-gaming premises on the island.

The new law imposes a \$2,500 or 15% net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater, on all electronic gaming devices on Saipan, including poker machines that are located within e-gaming facilities or hotels. The new fee will be on top of the existing similar amount of CNMI-wide fees imposed by current law.

House Local Bill 22-8 authored by House floor leader Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) was passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last June 23. It is named the Third Senatorial District Electronic Gaming Devices License Fee of 2021.

Yumul stated in the bill that, with the enactment of the Commonwealth casino law (Public Law No. 18-56), no new poker machines were allowed to be registered in the CNMI after April 2015. This means, Yumul said, that collections from poker fees will continue to decrease, yet Saipan is dependent on poker fees to pay for local programs, subsidizing local non-profit organizations, local projects and, most importantly, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program.

Noble pointed out, though, that the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation just passed



Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 consultant Gus Noble is joined by Saipan Vegas Resort employees in this photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the bill without giving them the opportunity to review it and challenge it.

"No opportunity for the public to make any input or the business affected to make any public input. Just in the dead of night with not public consultation at all," Noble said.

Although the purpose of the tax is ostensibly to raise revenue, he said this may have the opposite effect of causing the e-gaming industry in the CNMI to shut down entirely.

"If this happens, despite the imposition of a new tax, the citizens of the CNMI will receive zero revenue from e-gaming," he said.

Noble said the bill, as a local law, didn't need to go to the House or the Senate for review or debate, and was in essence a "backroom" deal with no opportunity for public comment. Noble said they were given no chance to present their comments and protect the employment of over 70 local employees.

"This is not how a democracy should work. Backroom deals done by politicians with clear conflicts of interests cannot be tolerated by the CNMI people and its voters," he said.

Noble noted that Yumul had a clear conflict of interest at the time he introduced the bill to the delegation as he previously recused himself from the House Gaming Committee because his brother, Ray Yumul, is the current chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Noble said Yumul's bill doubles the tax on IPI's only competitor.

Saipan Vegas also operates Saipan Country Club, the oldest golf course on Saipan, as well as Saipan Vegas Hotel.

Noble said Yumul introduced the bill that directly benefits his brother.

"It is such a clear and undeniably conflict of interest. It's just devastating," he said.

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# 'Delta variant news was not intended to scare people'

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s issuance of a press statement last Friday about a COVID-19 case of a delta variant in the CNMI was not intended to scare people but was part of a broader effort for CHCC's medical staff to maintain open conversations with the community about concerns with COVID-19 vaccines, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña.

In a virtual news briefing

last Friday, Muña also explained the importance of being vaccinated, and said the individual who tested positive and was later found to have been carrying the delta variant has since been "considered recovered."

Muña explained that the delta variant is a highly transmissible variant of COVID-19 that has "gotten smarter" and attaches to vaccinated individuals, and could possibly mutate and form other, even more trans-

missible variants.

However, Muña explained, being fully vaccinated mostly protects individuals from severe illnesses and increases the body's defense against current and future COVID-19 variants.

"We didn't put out [news about] the delta variant to scare people. The fact of the matter is it's a problem if we don't have immunity in this community. ... I get it. People are worried, people have ques-

tions. We are here for you to answer those questions. Our medical staff have reached out, [and] they're open to have a conversation on what [are] your [doubts] about these vaccines," said Muña.

In the CHCC press release that announced the discovery of the delta variant in the CNMI, CHCC said that "there is no current risk to the public." Muña assured Friday that this is still the case, saying that the individual was quarantined at the time, and was "considered recovered" after a 14-day incubation period where CHCC

closely monitored the individual for possible symptoms. Muña said the individual was released after this incubation period, citing studies done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that determined that individuals are considered not infectious after a 14-day incubation period.

Muña continues to emphasize the importance of being vaccinated. The CNMI's current goal is to reach 80% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and is the main goal

of the vaccination campaign Road to 80. Muña, however, believes that vaccination numbers should not stop there—the higher the number of vaccinated people, the better.

"We are urging individuals to [help us on the] Road to 80. ... We might even have to go even to the point where 85 or even 90% [of the CNMI is vaccinated], because more people vaccinated in the CNMI is the best protection for the entire community," said Muña.



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This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Tinian Carolinas .50 million gallon welded steel water tank to a new .50 million gallon concrete water tank project	The new .50 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Carolinas Heights Village, Tinian	\$ 5,180,000.00

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). All comments received by **August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov); Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor, CNMI



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

### NMHC IFB 2021-012

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: August 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

#### Vehicle Lease of 2-Pick-up Trucks for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

Bid information and packet is available on July 20, 2021, at the NMHC website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or at the CDBG-DR website at [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIA 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) or facsimile at (670) 234-9021, on or before July 26, 2021, no later than 10 a.m.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

### NMHC IFB 2021-013

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: August 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

#### Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Project package will be available on July 20, 2021, at the NMHC website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIA 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on July 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net). Bidders are requested to submit a notice via email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

# Members of KHS Class of 2006 beautify school

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Members of the Kagman High School Class of 2006 got

## San Nicolas bill seeks to give ‘second chance’

Rep. Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas (R-Tinian) recently introduced a bill that aims to give a second chance to people with criminal record associated with misdemeanor criminal offenses.

San Nicolas' House Bill 22-75, or the proposed Expungement Act of 2021, seeks address the issue of law-abiding citizens of the Commonwealth "who are unfairly burdened and unduly prejudiced for life by the stigma" of having a criminal record associated with misdemeanor criminal offenses committed in their past.

"There is evidence that shows our people are trying to move forward with their lives and want to pull themselves up. This bill is going to give people a second chance and that's all they're asking for. They've served their time, paid their fines, and learned their lesson. They're sorry and they've proven that they want to be a part of our community. However, not everyone can have their cases expunged, only misdemeanors or traffic offenses of which they need to meet certain conditions," San Nicolas said.

If enacted into law, the bill would amend the Commonwealth Code by adding a new section that allows a person convicted of a misdemeanor or traffic offense in the CNMI to petition the court to expunge all records concerning the conviction in the following circumstances: misdemeanor or traffic offense, after at least five years have passed since the court, Department of Probation, and the Division of Parole have all terminated, lost or relinquished supervision or jurisdiction of the person.

Individuals wishing to petition to expunge their cases must also present to the court whether he/she has been arrested or convicted for a felony, misdemeanor, or petty offense pursuant to Commonwealth or federal law; complied with all orders of the court, Department of Probation, and/or Division of Parole, and for any outstanding bench warrants, fines, fees, costs, or outstanding balances owed to the court, including, but not limited to, any order to pay restitution to any party have been paid. If the court is satisfied that no manifest injustice will be suffered by

together to repaint the high school's student parking lot and plant flame tree saplings last Saturday.

The improvement project

was made possible through the permission of KHS principal Ben Jones and buckets of paint donated by the office of Rep. Leila Staffler.

In a joint interview on Saturday with lead organizer and chair for their class reunion Ashley Reiko Pangelinan and

co-chair Momoko Halstead, the two said, "We would like to continue helping our high school and we hope to lead by example for other class years to do the same."

The two said that Jones earlier told them that other past classes have expressed inter-

est in joining the KHS Class of 2006's efforts, and Halstead said that for their next activity they will "really put it out there" to get more of KHS alumni involved again with their high school.

According to Pangelinan, next up for the KHS Class of

2006 might be a beach cleanup, a fundraiser, and a garage sale, as the class nears its class reunion scheduled for October.

Those wishing to keep up with the class's past and upcoming activities can do so on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/kagmanhigh2k6/>.



Members of the Kagman High School Class of 2006 come together for a group photo after completing their painting project of KHS' student parking lot last Saturday. The project was made possible thanks to the go-ahead from KHS principal Ben Jones and buckets of paint donated by the office of Rep. Leila Staffler.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Office: Pacific Quickprint Bldg.  
Middle Rd Garapan  
Saipan MP 96950**

## Kilili says 2,563 PUA/PFUC applications remain unprocessed

As of July 24, a total of 2,563 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Compensation applications remain unprocessed by the Commonwealth, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Citing U.S. Department of Labor reports, Sablan disclosed over the weekend via his e-kilili newsletter that the CNMI has \$273,895,997 that's available to pay out remaining PUA claims

and a balance of \$223,137,461 to cover FFUC claims.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for comments from Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente.

The delegate said a total of

\$103,559,003 in PUA claims have been paid out along with \$105,837,130 for PFUC since last summer.

Meanwhile, Sablan also disclosed that President Joe Biden authorized \$3,133,540 for the Marianas on Thursday as part of a nationwide invest-

ment in climate resiliency.

He said the funding will come through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and is intended to make communities like the CNMI better able to weather the impacts of climate change.

"Increased frequency and intensity of typhoons are among the predicted results as the oceans and air heat up because of increased carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere," Sablan said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Kiribati launches COVID-19 online toolkit

The Tourism Authority of Kiribati has launched an online toolkit for the Kiribati Tourism & Hospitality Protocols for the New Normal, the country's COVID-19 safety protocols for tourism and hospitality operators.

Since the development of the Kiribati Tourism & Hos-

pitality Protocols for the New Normal, TAK has delivered two-day in person COVID-19 protocol training for South and North Tarawa tourism operators. Similar trainings are planned for operators in Kiritimati and other outlying islands in the Line and Phoenix group.

These trainings have helped tourism operators understand the important role they play in ensuring the safety of their guests and staffs once borders reopen. However, without a definite border reopening date, it is important that tourism operators continue to update themselves on COVID-19 safety protocol. It is for this reason that the online

toolkit has been developed to allow for easy access to safety information by tourism operators and to guide them towards becoming COVID-19 safety compliant once Kiribati's international borders reopen.

In addition to detailed safety procedures, the toolkit also includes printable COVID-19 safety protocol

posters and flyers and employee training information. TAK is also developing a COVID-19 destination safety video which will be made available via the toolkit once completed.

The Kiribati Tourism Protocols for the New Normal was developed through consultation with the Ministry of

Health & Medical Services, World Health Organisation, relevant government ministries, Kiribati Chamber of Commerce, and Industry, tourism operators, and local training institutions and was funded through the Economic Recovery Grant of the U.S. Embassy in Suva, Fiji. (PR)



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

#### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 04, 2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Kagman existing 1.0 Million Gallon glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank to a new 1.0 million gallon concrete water tank project.	The new 1.0 Million Gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable, robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Kagman Village, Saipan	\$ 7,232,000.00

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net) or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net). All comments received by **August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov); Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor, CNMI

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhgov.net](mailto:nmhc@nmhgov.net) | Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) (This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

#### NMHC IFB 2021-014

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: August 20, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

#### Building Maintenance Services for NMHC's Housing Units in Tinian

Project package will be available on July 20, 2021, at the NMHC website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAIC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on July 27, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net). Bidders are requested to submit a notice via email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net) of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-bid conference at least one (1) day before the conference. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhgov.net](mailto:nmhc@nmhgov.net) | Website: <http://www.nmhgov.net>

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

#### NMHC RFP 2021-015

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: August 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

#### Financial and Compliance Audits For Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2021 and 2022

The Proposal Packet is available on July 21, 2021 at the NMHC website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

Inquiries regarding this RFP shall be submitted in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net) or submitted via facsimile to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 A.M. local time on July 28, 2021.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held via video teleconferencing on July 28, 2021, 2:00 p.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Offerors will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhgov.net](http://www.nmhgov.net). We request from offerors to submit a notice via email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net) of their intent to participate in the mandatory pre-proposal conference at least (1) day before the conference.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAIC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at [officemanager@nmhgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhgov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/  
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors

# MVA's Iakopo: Three flights from South Korea each week

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

With tourism in the CNMI having officially resumed, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo said the CNMI's Travel Bubble arrangement with South Korea is now hitting its stride, with three flights

from South Korea per week: one T'Way Air flight every Thursday and one Jeju Air and one Asiana Airlines flight on Saturdays.

Iakopo also assured that Travel Bubble visitors will have to either show a negative PCR COVID-19 test, or proof that they are fully vaccinated. Upon arrival, they have

to stay for about a week at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Then they will have the option of staying at either Saipan World Resort or Kensington Hotel Saipan.

When asked who arranges the itineraries for these visitors, Iakopo said the planning is done through travel agencies, and that all of Saipan's tourist spots are "open for everybody."

"[The tourists] have the option to purchase activities, whether it's going to Managaha or doing sightseeing tours, or even going to Tinian

and Rota. It's open for everybody, all our sites are open, same for Tinian and Rota as well," said Iakopo.

When asked if MVA has received any feedback from Korean visitors about their stay in the CNMI, Iakopo said that two officials from Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation recently visited the CNMI to "do a site inspection to ensure that what we have presented in Korea is

what is actually happening here in the CNMI." Iakopo said the two officials were very impressed with the CNMI's COVID-19 safety protocols, and said that they will visit again, next time around with their families.

According to Iakopo, the remainder of the initial batch of Korean visitors as part of the Familiarization Tour have already flown back to South Korea but, before doing that,

a part of the group visited Tinian and Rota, experienced the two islands' culture and food, and formed connections with its residents.

"They had very nice hospitality from the islands of Tinian and Rota, and got to experience how life is there, the culture, a spread of delicacies, and [had] one-on-one conversations with our local people," said Iakopo. A batch of 40-plus influencers and media personnel flew into Saipan last July 17 as part of MVA's initial Familiarization Tour.

## Student loan pause extended

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Education announced Friday a final extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections until Jan. 31, 2022.

The department said in a statement it believes this additional time and a definitive end date will allow borrowers to plan for the resumption of payments and reduce the risk of delinquency and defaults after restart. The department will continue its work to transition borrowers smoothly back into repayment, including by improving student loan servicing.

"The payment pause has been a lifeline that allowed millions of Americans to focus on their families, health, and finances instead of student loans during the national emergency," said U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona. "As our nation's economy continues to recover from a deep hole, this final extension will give students and borrowers the time they need to plan for restart and ensure a smooth pathway back to repayment. It is the Department's priority to support students and borrowers during this transition and ensure they have the resources they need to access affordable, high quality higher education."

The department will begin notifying borrowers about this final extension in the coming days, and it will release resources and information about how to plan for payment restart as the end of the pause approaches.

Friday's action is one of a series of steps the department has taken to support students and borrowers, make higher education more affordable,

and improve student loan servicing, including:

Approving \$1.5 billion in borrower defense claims, including extending full relief to approved claims and approving new types of claims.

Reinstating \$1.3 billion in loan discharges for 41,000 borrowers who received a total and permanent disability discharge and protecting another 190,000 from potential loan reinstatement.

Helping 30,000 small business owners with student loans seeking help from the Paycheck Protection Program. (PR)

**ROBERT T. TORRES**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859 | Facsimile: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Petitioner Merced Cepeda Santos

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE ) CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0216  
MATTER OF )  
THE ESTATE OF ) NOTICE OF HEARING AND ) NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
ROSALIA )  
SANTOS ) DATE: August 12, 2021  
CEPEDA, ) TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
Decedent. ) JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROSALIA SANTOS CEPEDA OR HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MERCED CEPEDA SANTOS has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to ADMIT ESTATE INTO PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATRIX for the Estate of Rosalia Santos Cepeda, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plate Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Respectfully submitted this \_\_\_\_ day of July 2021.

/s/  
CLERK OF COURT/SEPUTY CLERK



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

August 04, 2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after August 19, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Replacement of CUC Dan Dan existing .50 million gallon glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank to a new 1.0 million gallon concrete water tank project.	The new 1.0 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank will address the need for a durable, robust, and sustainable tank that will withstand seismic and typhoon conditions and have a longer lifespan.	Dan Dan Village, Saipan	\$ 7,048,000.00

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) or [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com); or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp). All comments received by August 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

#### OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRISI Division Director, HUD, via email at [Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov); Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor, CNMI

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR**  
**INVITATION TO BID (ITB)**  
**ITB21-OPA-002**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 9, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWENTY (20) EACH DELL LAPTOPS / DOCKS / MONITORS / UPS / WIRELESS KEYBOARDS & MOUSE COMBO"**

THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MICHELLE A. CAMACHO, OPA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR E-MAIL TO [mcamacho@opacmi.com](mailto:mcamacho@opacmi.com).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDERS.

/S/ KINA B. PETER, CPA  
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO  
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Counting breakthrough cases is key

**B**ack in May when coronavirus case counts were swiftly declining and confidence was high that we might finally be near the end of this terrible pandemic, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention quit routinely tracking what was then a very small number of breakthrough virus infections in people who were fully vaccinated.

May seems like a long time ago now.

As the delta variant of the virus is now dominant in the United States and pushing at a swift pace case counts to levels we haven't seen since spring, public health officials now are missing a key metric in the ongoing fight to stop the coronavirus. How many of these infections are occurring in people who have been vaccinated?

What's worse is that while most states continued publicly tracking breakthrough infections even after the CDC dropped that practice except in cases of hospitalization and death, Pennsylvania is one of the few states that followed the federal agency's lead. We do not know how many of Pennsylvania's rapidly increasing number of coronavirus cases are so-called breakthrough cases.

This must be addressed immediately. Pennsylvania must tally breakthrough cases and, equally important, encourage testing among vaccinated people who suspect they are infected.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, accurate and timely data about the spread of the coronavirus has been one of the most important tools for keeping the public safe.

And accurate, detailed data about the current infections in the state—including whether they are occurring in vaccinated people—will help us figure out whether another of the most important tools, the vaccine, is protecting us adequately.

We do know that this week the state's daily case numbers jumped to more than 1,400, pushing the seven-day average to more than five times what it was a month earlier.

It is reasonable to expect that Pennsylvania's breakthrough case rates are similar to those in states that have been tracking the infections. That means breakthrough cases likely represent only a very small portion of cases and that unvaccinated Pennsylvanians still face the biggest risk. In New Jersey, for instance, breakthrough cases account for about 0.05% of coronavirus cases.

The recent surge in infections is the inevitable consequence of failing to vaccinate more of the state's residents. But as we must frustratingly return to the days of anxiously watching case counts rise and weighing risks and smart public-health policies, we must have a complete set of data with which to work.

The timing is especially critical as students—many of them too young to be vaccinated—are about to head back to full classrooms for a new school year.

Even if the state and federal government health officials had been counting reported breakthrough cases, public health experts believe those numbers would be an undercount as many vaccinated people who get sick experience mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. These patients are less likely to seek out virus tests or land in a doctor's office or hospital where their

See COUNTING on Next Page



### Did you miss Fauci's most urgent warning?

**B**reaking news about the deadly COVID-19 flashed across our news screens Thursday morning. Finally, President Joe Biden's pandemic alert team seemed to be issuing the lifesaving medical science warning call we all urgently needed to hear and heed. Before it is too late!

Yet it whooshed across our screens so quickly and quietly that you may well have missed it. Just as its real urgency has apparently been missed or at least not made powerfully clear to you by President Biden's top newsmakers of medical science and message politics. Which is why most of the news reporters who cover those newsmakers have just missed the biggest news of the day.

Namely: We in the USA may soon be threatened by a new COVID-19 variant that is even more dangerous and even deadlier than the now-surge delta variant. We are urgently warning about a new variant that might develop here soon that is as contagious as the current delta variant—yet is also far more resistant to our existing vaccines (which indeed protect us against the most severe effects of even the delta variant).

And here is part two of this warning call: There is just one main reason why a deadly new strain may develop here. It is because some 93 million people in our midst—our families, friends and neighbors—are refusing to be inoculated by the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines while we know they can be effective against all strains in North America, including the delta variant.

Bottom Line: We can only be safe, here in the USA, if we convince vax-refusers to get vaccinated. Pronto!

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Biden's chief medical adviser and the face of America's pandemic alert system, delivered that alarming news in an interview with the McClatchy. But you may well have missed it. Because Fauci didn't deliver that warning with BREAKING NEWS urgency; he sort of eased into it. And that's probably why the McClatchy article reporting his exclusive comments also eased into this most alarming news. (The article led with the latest numbers of the delta variant surge nationwide. It summarized Fauci's warning in the second paragraph, but then saved Fauci's most alarming words for the news article's powerful kicker. And of course that probably means most of your favorite television news-readers never even saw them.)

What McClatchy reported was that Fauci warned that we are presently giving the highly contagious delta variant "ample" opportunity to morph into an even deadlier variant.

"If we don't crush the outbreak to the point of getting the overwhelming proportion of the population vaccinated," Fauci said, according to McClatchy, "then what will happen is the virus will continue to smolder through the fall into the winter, giving it ample chance to get a variant which ... could ... push aside delta."

"If another one comes along that has an equally high capability of transmitting but also is much more severe, then we could

**By MARTIN SCHRAM**  
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



really be in trouble. People who are not getting vaccinated mistakenly think it's only about them. But it isn't. It's about everybody else, also."

You may have noticed that right-wing politicians are not just having a political field day by attacking and distorting Fauci's warnings and recommendations. They have made this patriotic, fervently apolitical medical science professional the poster-face of their panicked effort to divert responsibility for the pandemic surges that have been aided by the most stridently right-wing Republican governors who think it is good politics to oppose commonsense scientific ways of safeguarding all Americans.

So you can expect to soon hear the far right pols use their favorite media megaphones to challenge Fauci for promoting gloom-and-doom coronavirus concerns that a variant resistant to present vaccines could develop.

Small World: A new study of a COVID-19 strain known as the lambda variant, which is now menacing South America, was studied by scientists half a world away, in Tokyo—and their findings may well validate Fauci's heightened concerns in the USA. The Japanese scientists found that the lambda variant was resistant to current vaccines—yet also highly contagious, Reuters reported Sunday.

"The Lambda variant of the coronavirus, first identified in Peru and now spreading in South America, is highly infectious and more resistant to vaccines than the original version of the virus that emerged from Wuhan, China, Japanese researchers have found," Reuters reported. "In laboratory experiments, they found that three mutations in Lambda's spike protein ... help it resist neutralization by vaccine-induced antibodies. Two additional mutations ... help make Lambda highly infectious, they found."

So here in the USA, it is indeed possible that Fauci has sounded his warning siren just in time to save us from a preventable danger: The delta variant that is sweeping every state could morph into something much worse—a new variation that cannot be halted or even curbed by our existing lifesaving vaccines.

But we also know there is one (but only one!) way we can prevent that from happening: We can save ourselves, our loved ones, our friends and neighbors if everyone gets vaccinated—now! Before it is too late.

# The US Coast Guard

**T**he ability of the United States to maintain its extended influence throughout the Pacific Asiatic region has been founded in part with how America has gone about establishing and growing economic and international alliances and relationships. U.S. interests throughout our vast area are considered of highest importance to the American national government and great efforts continue to be made to ensure that key geopolitical interests are protected. This one perspective and view of international politics necessitates the need for the United States to maintain an ever present and robust maritime protection and military offense/defense architecture.

Most people think that when it comes to protecting American ocean interests worldwide, it is the exclusive realm of the Marine Corps and Navy. This is not the case because the Coast Guard has also been and remains an integral part of America's maritime security umbrella.

What is different about the Coast Guard is that it falls under America's Homeland Security community and not the Pentagon during times of peace. During times of conflict, the Pentagon takes over and directs Coast Guard operations that complement and enhance Navy and Marine Corps-based operations.

## Select points to consider

The Coast Guard is appropriately named because its focus has historically been associated with coastal operations throughout the North American continent, Alaska, and Hawaii. The Coast Guard is trained in many things to include rescuing people in distress, assisting with disaster and crisis response activities, engaging in offensive operations to help stem illegal acts such as drug smuggling, and providing expanded coverage and port security missions throughout the areas of its assigned responsibility.

Activities performed by Marianas Islands-based Coast Guard personnel further demonstrate America's ongoing commitment to the region. This is driven by the ongoing effort of the United States government to further militarize Guam, the Northern Marianas and Micronesia, in response to China's military buildup.

## One of three

Today, the Coast Guard is one of three primary United States national government organizations that are considered "sea service" oriented entities.

The Coast Guard continues to modernize its surface vessel

inventories through the construction and replacement of fast cutter vessels. The Coast Guard has run into major challenges managing the expenses and containing costs for this shipbuilding program. The Navy has also been historically challenged with effectively managing its expenses when it comes to building capital surface ships and small surface ships for delivery to the fleet.

America's sea services sign contracts with for-profit firms who build cutters and larger capital warships for the United States government. Most of these companies are publicly traded entities whose stocks are listed on major American exchanges. These large shipbuilding programs cost American taxpayers tens of billions of dollars over several years.

However, sea service surface vessel modernization constitutes only one piece of a much larger military and homeland security puzzle being undertaken by the United States government that also includes building out unmanned surface vessels and submarines that have state-of-the-art technology.

## Significance of the U.S. Coast Guard in the Marianas Islands

The three new Coast Guard fast-cutter ships now homeported in the Marianas Islands are part of an effort to replace and deliver more effective and up-to-date resources that further enhance operational needs and requirements in our region.

The Coast Guard has been and remains an integral contributor toward exercising sea-based anti-access, area denial policies supported by America's national leaders, and carried out mostly by the Navy.

The United States is doing all it can to both prevent and to prepare for war against China, Russia, and North Korea. For our Chamorro and Chamolinian civilization of the Marianas Islands, it underscores just how central a role our island chain has become with regards to its involvement and support of preparing and preventing war with China.

The importance of our ancient island chain to the American national government is underscored by the recent visit to the Marianas by the commandant of the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard boasts a strong local presence of several hundred personnel currently working or stationed throughout our Marianas Islands chain. The people working for the Coast Guard are dedicated professionals who create value by being on station every day performing their assigned work duties.

The governments of Guam and the CNMI, along with the Coast Guard and the Navy, help ensure that nearshore areas

pian with more than 20 years of experience under her belt allowed Wickenheiser to see in a few days what it took me more than two decades to really understand.

The closest I've come to being a prodigious athlete is taking Peloton instructor Cody Rigsby's Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears rides in the same day. But as a chronic overachiever, I bought into old, toxic myths about excellence for much of my life. I grew up thinking that rest was a waste of time, and that self-care should be scheduled about as frequently as an oil change.

Later, the unforgiving culture of medicine programmed me to work myself to the bone. It taught me to suppress emotion, to ignore my own health, to work through any conditions, regardless of whether that was necessary or even helpful to patients. It is a culture of so-called "excellence"—until the curtain is peeled back and we see how many of its champions are just barely scraping by.

What defines a champion, anyway? Observers are contrasting Biles' choice with Kerri Strug's decision to vault on a badly injured ankle at the 1996 Olympics. Strug was lauded for her heroism—and no one should ever minimize her sheer guts or her resolve. But was it heroism, or were we simply in an era of glorifying one's ability to smile as the whip, or the bone, cracked?

I'm nearly twice as old as Simone Biles. It's taken me almost all of those years to be anywhere near as brave as she is, to put up my hand and say "enough!" when my job threatened my physical and mental health. If that's been hard for me, what's it been like for her, a woman of color in a notoriously white field who is a survivor of sexual abuse, suffered while training in the very sport in which she excels?

I'll never forget Wickenheiser telling me that the stress of becoming a doctor was nothing compared with her years as an

## RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

are protected in a variety of ways.

## China, however, is on top of its Coast Guard game

China maintains a unified Coast Guard apparatus that is composed of several previously disparate parts that conduct surveillance and maritime-related enforcement activities in direct support of the Chinese military.

The role of the Chinese Coast Guard as a supporting entity to the Chinese government and Navy is similar in some ways to the supporting role that the American Coast Guard plays from the American governmental perspective in our region.

Strategically, China has figured out that it is more cost-effective and less visible to potential adversaries to grow its fleet of Coast Guard vessels because they are generally smaller, less expensive, and less threatening than deploying large military capital ships.

China's fleet of Coast Guard vessels act as auxiliary resources that can travel far distances and can perform a variety of missions in direct support of larger military vessel mission sets. Coast Guard vessels are also relatively easier to build and replace as individual boats approach their useful lives.

## Three fast-attack cutters are not enough

Having three American Coast Guard vessels in our region, however, is not a failsafe strategy because the western Pacific, the Marianas Islands and the greater Micronesian region is too large an area for three ships to adequately cover.

If the United States wants to further enhance Coast Guard mission sets and credibility in and throughout our Marianas Islands chain and beyond, it will need many more fast cutters assigned to our area and it will need to build closer working relationships with the Japanese and Republic of the Philippines Coast Guards in the future.

# Simone Biles delivered a mental health message much of the world wasn't ready to hear

**W**hen Simone Biles withdrew from the Olympic women's gymnastics team final last week because of her mental health, I couldn't help but think of another Olympian—Canadian sports legend Hayley Wickenheiser—and what happens when culture tries to eat champions for breakfast.

Wickenheiser is a five-time Olympic medalist—four golds, one silver—in women's hockey. As a trailblazer in a male-dominated sport, she knows something about challenging stereotypes and changing culture. Several years ago, in a career full of surprises, she unleashed the biggest one of all: She went to medical school.

When I interviewed her earlier this year, Wickenheiser had keen observations about the similarities and differences between medicine and Olympic sport ... and how odd it is that any pursuit would equate "excellence" with personal self-destruction. One particular story stuck out.

Wickenheiser was describing her first shift on the medical wards. She worked a 20-hour stretch with a single break of 20 minutes, ate one hurried meal, used the washroom once and stumbled through four Code Blues. She described the blur of the next several days, during which she, an Olympic champion, struggled to recover from the physical impact of medical shift. Then she had a sudden insight.

She would never do that to herself again. She couldn't control the hours she had to work. But she could eat. She could rest periodically. She could take a short walk outside. She had the wisdom to know there wouldn't be a prize for martyrdom. And she was smart enough not to want it anyway.

Like Biles, Wickenheiser was turning an age-old myth on its head: That to be the best, you have to compromise everything, including your health. You don't, of course, and being an Olym-

pian with more than 20 years of experience under her belt allowed Wickenheiser to see in a few days what it took me more than two decades to really understand.

The closest I've come to being a prodigious athlete is taking Peloton instructor Cody Rigsby's Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears rides in the same day. But as a chronic overachiever, I bought into old, toxic myths about excellence for much of my life. I grew up thinking that rest was a waste of time, and that self-care should be scheduled about as frequently as an oil change.

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I'm nearly twice as old as Simone Biles. It's taken me almost all of those years to be anywhere near as brave as she is, to put up my hand and say "enough!" when my job threatened my physical and mental health. If that's been hard for me, what's it been like for her, a woman of color in a notoriously white field who is a survivor of sexual abuse, suffered while training in the very sport in which she excels?

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## By JILLIAN HORTON

Los Angeles Times

*Jillian Horton is a writer and physician. She is the author of We Are All Perfectly Fine: A Memoir of Love, Medicine and Healing.*



Olympian, when she felt the weight of an entire country on her shoulders. Yes, medicine and many other high-pressure professions can be grueling, but the sports competitions that entertain us can create a level of stress that many of us will never understand. And changing that culture can only be undertaken by real champions—the precious few who cannot be eaten for breakfast.

What Simone Biles chose to do last week on the Olympic stage is nothing short of revolutionary. She delivered a message much of the world wasn't ready to hear. She put her health first—and that may be her greatest signature move of all.

## COUNTING

From Page 10

cases might be counted. Yet, they can be passing the sickness.

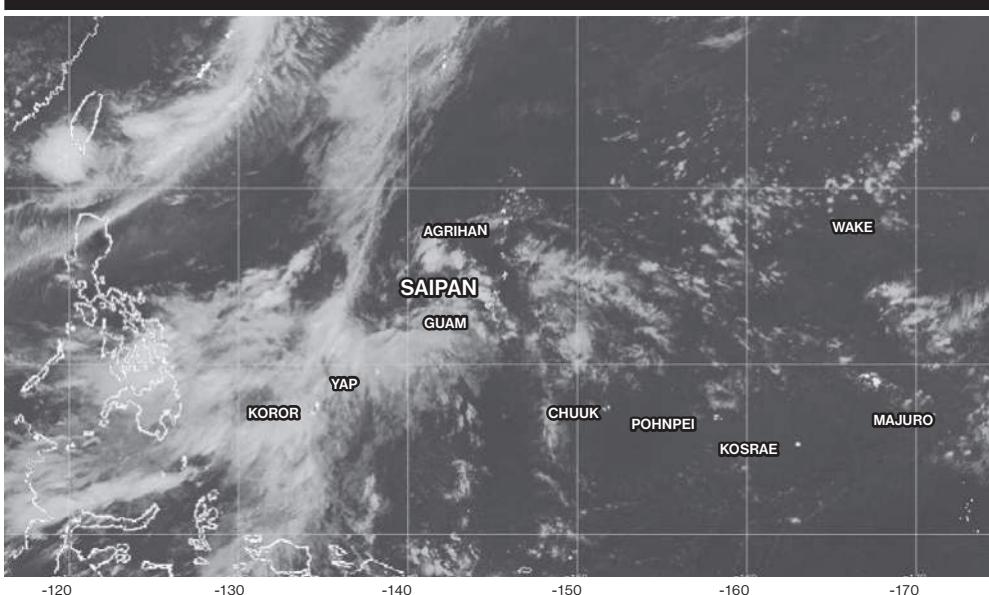
Pennsylvania must ramp up a more robust tracking and public reporting system for coronavirus cases and the state must immediately add breakthrough cases to that data. More information is more power in the war against this pandemic.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°
76°	84°	76°	84°	76°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite show mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. There are also some isolated thunderstorms to the east of the Marianas Waters. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of trade wind swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>.
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp), follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:20 AM	7:27 PM	-
Tuesday	7:15 AM	8:10 PM	-
Wednesday	8:10 AM	8:51 PM	-
Thursday	9:04 AM	9:31 PM	-
Friday	9:59 AM	10:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Showers	81° / 68°
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 72°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET	
2:16 AM	Low Tide
7:12 AM	High Tide
2:28 PM	Low Tide
9:23 PM	High Tide

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021				
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS		
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>		<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>		
UA117 9:15am		9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174 4:50am
UA117 6:30am		7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174 7:30am
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>		<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>		
UA117/183 6:30am		8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174 9:50pm
UA117/183 6:30am		9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174 10:25pm
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>		<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>		
UA183 6:55pm		8:50pm	2, 5	UA184 9:50pm
UA183 7:15pm		9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184 10:25pm

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021				
<b>SAIPAN TO ROTA</b>				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	12



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
Office of the Executive Director**



**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
CUC-RAESP-21-029**

**A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SADOG TASI WWTP UPGRADE  
(S20-078)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits will be held on July 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.**

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-029, A&E Design Services for the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 13, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 29, 2021 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

**NOTICE OF ADOPTED WATER SPORTS REGULATIONS AND LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF NEW MOTORIZED WATERSPORTS PERMITS**

The Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Regulatory Agencies have adopted amendments to NMIAC Chapter 15-20 to repeal all existing Jet Ski Rules and Regulations at NMIAC §§ 15-20-101 to 15-20-405 and adopt new Water Sports Regulations at NMIAC §§ 15-20-001 to 15-20-705. On July 22, 2021, these regulations were adopted as final by the CRM Regulatory Agencies in a public meeting and the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) Director was authorized to promulgate these regulations on behalf of the CRM Regulatory Agencies.

The issuance of new commercial motorized watersports permits in Saipan has been suspended since 2014. The notice of suspension stated that “The purpose of this temporary suspension is to further develop new and/or improve current regulations for the watersports industry. Consideration for new watersports permits will resume upon approved BECQ-DCRM regulations.” The adoption of these regulations was published in the Commonwealth Register, Volume 43, Number 07, on July 28, 2021. Pursuant to the APA, 1 CMC § 9105(b), these adopted amendments are effective 10 days after publication in the Commonwealth Register. Therefore, the suspension on the issuance of new commercial watersports permits is lifted as of the effective date of the regulations.

Based on the implementation of the Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP) and associated stakeholder engagement process, DCRM's updated Water Sports Regulations include an expanded listing of various Water Sports and Recreational Activities and restrict the issuance of Water Sports Permits to one per person/business entity in various categories, with a limit to the maximum number of permits DCRM can issue for each category of activity. As such, some Water Sports and Recreational Activities categories will have a limited number of permits available to new applicants. Prospective applicants are welcome to consult with DCRM's Permitting section for more information regarding the changes to the regulations.

As detailed in NMIAC § 15-20-115(c), applications for new Water Sports Permits shall be processed by DCRM on a first-come, first-served basis (i.e., in the order each complete application is received by DCRM). Updated applications will be available at DCRM's office and on its website at [www.dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/downloadable-application-forms/](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/downloadable-application-forms/) on August 10, 2021. Only complete applications will be accepted by the DCRM office for processing.

All current marine sport operator permits will be re-issued to reflect updated permit conditions. No further action is required for all current permittees.

For more questions or more information, please contact the DCRM Permitting Section at (670) 664-8300 or [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). BECQ client hours are Monday-Friday from 8am to 3pm.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO, Director  
Division of Coastal Resources Management



**DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**



**OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR**  
1st Floor, Building 1300, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

**PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT**

**This is to inform the general public that the Division of Youth Services under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be conducting a Public Hearing on the Consolidated Block Grant that DYS receives under the authority of the Social Services Block Grant – Title XX for the following:**

ISLAND	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Saipan	August 10, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Kagman Community Center
Tinian	August 11, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Tinian Youth Center
Rota	August 12, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Sinapalo Youth Center

Electronic copy of the FY2022 Consolidated Block Grant Intended Use Plan draft may be viewed on the links below:

DYS Website: [www.dys.gov.mp](http://www.dys.gov.mp)  
DCCA Website: [dcca.gov.mp](http://dcca.gov.mp)  
CNMI Governor's Website: [www.gov.mp](http://www.gov.mp)

For more information, or to retrieve a hard copy, you may contact Nina S. Nekaifes, DYS Federal Program Coordinator III at 237-1018 or via email: [nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp](mailto:nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp) or contact Vivian T. Sablan, DYS Administrator at 237-1000/1/2/3 or via email: [vsablan@dys.gov.mp](mailto:vsablan@dys.gov.mp).

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan  
DYS Administrator

/s/Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero  
DCCA Secretary



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
Office of the Executive Director**



**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
CUC-RAESP-21-037**

**A&E SERVICES FOR TINIAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)**

**& ROTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)**

**PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) and Environmental Impact Assessment for Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2, an Environmental Assessment for submittal to the CNMI Coastal Resources Management (CRM) as a Major siting Permit Application.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-037, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) – Preliminary Engineering Report & Environmental Impact Assessment", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on September 8, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM  
Purchasing Administrator

# Distance education metrics go under the microscope



Sixty instructors, counselors, and staff from all over the CNMI recently reviewed how distance education performed last school year and explored ways on how to enhance distance education content even more this coming school year.

The Instructional Technology & Distance Education Professional Development training, conducted at the Kensington Hotel Saipan and led by ITDE director Dr. Bobby Cruz and program manager Lorraine Catienza of the Public School System, highlighted the program's performance for the last school year and focused on bringing a higher level of service to the students and professionals in the CNMI.

"Problems have a way of catalyzing innovative solutions, and this is particularly true if destiny gifts you with the right people in the right places," said Cruz, adding that this is true with ITDE. "Every member of this team is highly collaborative, empathetic, respectful, highly skilled and driven to innovate for our students. Together, we have worked tirelessly to lay bricks to set the foundation for where we are today."

He said the ITDE has used

technology to address teacher shortages, particularly on Tinian and Rota, provided required high school courses so student can meet graduation requirements, supported retention of educators by providing certification and licensure courses at no cost, and, most recently, mobilized remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both ensuring the safety of students and staff while guaranteeing continued learning.

Undertaking a new movement, ITDE has also launched Elementary and Middle School courses that focus on using technology to develop learning at the earlier stages of academia. The Digital Skills course is an investment for well-rounded learners as technology will continue to have a strong presence in education.

"Today's professional development is about continuous improvement," said Cruz. "Celebrating successes demonstrated by the data and leaning into opportunities for growth to ensure that the services we provide for our students and staff continue to support growth." *(Saipan Tribune)*



# Environmental protection a top priority during Pacific Iron 21

By TECH. SGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON  
36TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**TINIAN**—U.S. service members participating in Operation Pacific Iron 21 on Tinian are making sure that protecting the environment is a top priority.

The military members have spent the past week working side-by-side with representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture and local officials in order to safely operate.

"It's critical we work with the military to preserve our environment," said Juanita Mendiola, 18th Tinian Municipal Council secretary. "This island is my identity, it's who I am. I have lived on Tinian most of my life. We have asked the military to work with us to ensure our environment is safe for everyone while they are here training."

The ecosystem on Tinian boasts vibrant plant and some animal life found nowhere else on Earth.

"I think my role here is important to ensure the environment is safe from invasive species," said Emily Selberg, USDA biological science technician and K-9 handler. "I'm here with my K-9, Toby, to ensure no snakes, specifically brown tree snakes, arrive on Tinian. These snakes can heavily and negatively impact the local environment and more specifically the local bird population."

Tinian has no native snakes and is home to the Tinian Monarch, a small bird found nowhere else in the world.

"Besides, myself and Toby, there are snake traps all along the fence line of the airport to ensure safety," said Selberg. "Along with snakes, if a rhinoceros beetle was to come to Tinian, it would be really bad for the palm trees here. Because of that, there are also beetle traps along the airport fence line that have a phero-



U.S. service members participating in Operation Pacific Iron 21 receive a briefing regarding environmental hazards that pose a threat to the ecosystem on Tinian, July 19, 2021. Two of the largest threats to the plant and animal life are invasive species such as the brown tree snake and rhinoceros beetle. Approximately 800 airmen and 35 aircraft are participating in Pacific Air Forces' dynamic force employment operation July 11 to Aug. 8, 2021, in Guam and Tinian. U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON



U.S. Air Force airmen disconnect fuel hoses taking care to ensure no excess fuel spills onto the ground at Tinian International Airport, Tinian, during Pacific Iron 2021, last July 27, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON



U.S. Department of Agriculture biological science technician and K-9 handler Emily Selberg and K-9, Toby, inspect cargo at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, last July 21, 2021. Selberg and Toby have worked alongside service members daily during Pacific Iron 2021 to ensure aircraft and cargo arriving to Tinian are free from potential invasive species as the ecosystem on Tinian boasts vibrant plant and some animal life found nowhere else on Earth. U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON



U.S. Department of Agriculture biological science technician and K-9 handler Emily Selberg and K-9, Toby, inspect cargo at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, last July 21, 2021. Selberg and Toby have worked alongside service members daily during Pacific Iron 2021 ensuring aircraft and cargo arriving to Tinian are free from potential invasive species as the ecosystem on Tinian boasts vibrant plant and some animal life found nowhere else on Earth. U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. BENJAMIN SUTTON

mone in them that the beetles are attracted to."

Selberg and Toby work

daily inspecting cargo and aircraft arriving to support Pacific Iron.

"Toby was trained in the United States to locate snakes with his amazing sense of

## Navy awards largest contract for work on Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM**—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded last week a \$546 million firm-fixed price contract to Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima, LLC, of Tamuning, Guam for the design and construction of five multi-story bachelors enlisted quarters complexes at Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in Guam.

The contract supports the Defense Policy Review Initiative and is funded by the Government of Japan as part of the International Agreement between the United States and Japan.

"The award of this contract for five of the eight BEQs to

be constructed at MCBCB is a major milestone in NAVFAC's delivery of this new Marine Corps mission capability in the Western Pacific," said NAVFAC Pacific Commander Rear Adm. John Adametz. "Funded by the Government of Japan, this contract is the largest of the contracts planned for construction of Camp Blaz. The close and collaborative efforts between the Marine Corps and NAVFAC Pacific made this contract award possible on-schedule and under budget. We look forward to delivering these five new state-of-the-art BEQs in support of Force Design and long term Marine Corps operational readiness on Guam."

"This contract award demonstrates our shared commitment toward the international agreement with a key ally, the GOJ," said Marine Corps Installations Command Com-

mander Brig. Gen. Daniel Conley. "MCBCB provides resilient permanent forward presence in the Indo Pacific Area of Responsibility. This project will contribute essential billeting for Camp Blaz stationed Marines. The Japanese funding and US Government execution of this project shows the strength of our alliance and our shared investment for its future. Further, this contract award is consistent with our commitment to Guam as outlined in the Four Pillars statement as it minimizes impacts to the local community."

Work will be performed in Guam with an expected completion date of the fifth BEQ by May 2026. (PR)

smell," said Selberg. "I have been taking him all around when aircraft arrive so he can help me check for any unwanted species. We have been thoroughly checking the cargo of every aircraft that lands and I have been checking the landing gear of jets as that's where the snakes like to be."

Tinian is a critical location for military operations and service members understand an important part of military readiness is environmental protection.

"Protecting the environment is vital for us out here," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Darren Albrecht, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuel operations supervisor. It's basically Petroleum, Oil and

Lubricants 101...don't spill a drop. We have been focusing on conducting our operations safely and in coordination with the USDA and local representatives here. We understand the importance of taking care of the environment and follow the guidelines to the letter."

Airmen deployed for Pacific Iron are honing their Multi-capable Airmen skills to include being good environmental stewards.

"Tinian is such a unique natural habitat," said Albrecht. "We want to make sure we do everything possible to ensure we have zero negative impact on the environment here while executing our mission as effectively as possible."

## More than 80% of NMTI staff fully vaccinated; classes begin Aug. 17

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
[joshua\\_santos@saipantribune.com](mailto:joshua_santos@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

to wash their hands and will have hand sanitizer in every classroom.

More than 80% of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's instructors and staff are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to NMTI's student services and curriculum coordinator Meena Benavente.

In terms of NMTI's COVID-19 safety protocols, Benavente said Thursday last week that it is "back to square one" due to concerns with the advent of the contagious and lethal delta variant.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. confirmed last Friday that a case of the delta variant entered the CNMI in July but that case was immediately quarantined and CHCC has assured that there is currently no risk to the CNMI community.

But in line with concerns over this contagious variant, NMTI's staff, students, and instructors will be required to wear masks at all times, and must maintain social distancing during the next school year.

Additionally, NMTI will highly encourage all who visit its Lower Base facility

to wash their hands and will have hand sanitizer in every classroom.

As of Thursday, Benavente shared that NMTI has completed 74% of its goal of having 120 applicants for the upcoming school year, but clarified that these are not final numbers, as NMTI is still currently accepting applications. According to NMTI admissions specialist Jerry Pangilinan, the absolute latest one could apply for the upcoming school year is the week of Aug. 16-20.

Benavente spoke highly of NMTI's current instructors and staff ahead of the upcoming school year. "NMTI's staff is quite diverse in terms of culture and expertise, so there is a profound understanding of how things run. ... We really make a great team, and I believe within time NMTI will reach the goals that we set," said Benavente.

NMTI can be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/cnmi.nmti](https://facebook.com/cnmi.nmti) and on Instagram @cnmi.nmti. Those wanting to call NMTI can do so through 235-6684. Its website and student application forms can be found at <https://nmticnmi.org/>.

## Three banks require COVID-19 vaccinations for employees

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Effective Sept. 30, Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, and Territorial Savings Bank will be requiring employees to show proof of full vaccination or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

Under the new policy, the financial institutions will cover the COVID-19 test cost for non-vaccinated employees undergoing weekly testing.

In a statement Friday, it said these three banks were prompted to implement this new measure due to what it described as an “alarming in-

## Chenille Espinosa graduates from basic training

U.S. Air Force airman Chenille “Chanel” Eleyda Espinosa recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Espinosa, a former student of Saipan Southern High School, and an athlete for Saipan’s women basketball and softball teams, completed

an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the

Air Force. Out of the 15 Flights, Espinosa’s Flight Crew also won Commander’s Excellence. This was also the first squadron to have families come over since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Espinosa  
School. (PR)

Espinosa is the daughter of Darius and Grace Espinosa, sister of Nicole Joy, Jayden Keith, and a fellow airman Daryl “DJ” Espinosa, who is currently active in the U.S. Air Force and also an alumnus of Saipan Southern High

ports, Dotts also informed the court that he intends to file a motion to withdraw himself as IPI counsel due to non-payment of legal fees. “Counsel expects to file the motion later this week. IPI is looking for substitute counsel,” he told the court.

Meanwhile, Dotts reported that six IPI employees from the Philippines were repatriated last Tuesday. In regards to its remaining Chinese national workers, IPI is still waiting for the Chinese embassy to approve Saipan-Korea-China flights to repatriate them.

Dotts also reported that the lease for Lucy’s Apartments has been terminated and IPI is in the process of transferring its remaining employees who reside there to the Sugar King housing as part of cost-cutting efforts.

IPI also remains on top of their settlement payments and are on track with their payroll payments.

“IPI’s parent company has sent, by wire transfer, the August Settlement Payment to United States Department of Labor on July 30, 2021. The next settlement payment will be due on Sept. 1, 2021. Payroll was distributed in full and without incident on July 30, 2021. IPI’s next payroll is due on August 13, 2021,” Dotts said. (*Kimberly B. Esmores*)

crease in COVID-19 cases.”

Employees may submit requests for exemptions due to legitimate religious or medical reasons. Individuals

granted exemptions will still be required to comply with regular COVID-19 testing and other preventative requirements. (*PR*)

## IPI to probe threat posed by cranes

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has told the U.S. District Court for the NMI that it will look into the Commonwealth Casino Commission’s concerns regarding the alleged danger the tower cranes in its construction site poses to the community.

In its 29<sup>th</sup> status report filed with the U.S. District Court for the NMI, IPI, through counsel Michael Dotts, said they will investigate and determine how serious the crane concerns are.

“I am aware that there is a concern over the safety of one of the cranes on the jobsite. Although this action does not deal directly with the safety of the jobsite, in the interests of public safety and because of the request of the CCC, counsel will investigate to determine how serious of a matter this is,” he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI construction site manager Jesse Aquinogoc told CCC board members during the board’s meeting last Thursday that he believes that, if not repaired immediately, Tower Crane No. 6 that is facing the beach may start to collapse in three months.

IPI’s construction site in Garapan has three standing tower cranes: Tower Crane No. 5 facing Joeten, Tower Crane No. 6 facing the beach, and Tower Crane No. 1.

Along with his weekly re-

## NTT Docomo supports Tokyo 2020 Olympics medal-making campaign

**TAMUNING, GUAM**—NTT Docomo, Docomo Pacific’s parent company, supports Tokyo 2020 Olympics medal-making campaign.

This year’s Olympic Games in Tokyo is rewarding athletes with medals made from recycled electronics. The original idea, announced over four years ago by the Tokyo Olympics organizing committee, became a reality when the Olympic medal-making campaign asked members of the public to donate old devices such as smartphones, laptops, and gaming consoles to make the medals.

Launched in 2017, the campaign, called “Making Medals for Urban Mines,” received over 47,488 tons of equipment

in the first 18 months, and 5 million phones from the local Japanese phone provider, NTT Docomo. The campaign planned to make 5,000 Olympic medals for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and reached the targeted amount of bronze within just 14 months.

To support the project, NTT Docomo’s donation of 5 mil-

lion devices came from collecting used mobile phones in approximately 2,400 of its shops across Japan. The company found that in 2017, household ownership of devices was 94.8% of which 75.1% were smartphones.

Having conducted the survey, NTT said in a statement: “Considering that people tend to replace their mobile telephones—essential to daily life as information terminals—just over every four years or so, this world-first project for recycling used mobile telephones and other small appliances 100% to create medals will also lead to the creation of mechanisms for recycling limited resources.”

“We are proud of our parent company’s efforts at recycling and their contribution to the Olympic Games in Tokyo. We are also planning a recycling campaign for Guam and CNMI in the near future to promote the importance of island sustainability,” said Rodgerick Boss, Docomo Pacific’s chief executive officer. (*PR*)

*To My Father’s House*

# + JOAQUIN QUINENE CRUZ

LOVINGLY CALLED “JACK” OR “KIN”

Born on June 17, 1948, **Jack** answered God’s call on Sunday, August 01, 2021 at the age of 73. As he enters God’s Paradise, he is greeted and reunited with his parents **Jose Reyes** and **Ana Quinene Cruz**; his parents-in-law, **Antonio Reyes** and **Maria Villagomez DeLeon Guerrero** his brothers, **Dr. Jose Q. Cruz** and **Fred Q. Cruz**; his brothers- and sisters-in-law: **Joseph M. Santiago**, **Pedro V. and Jeanette DeLeon Guerrero**, **Gregorio V. and Vanessa DeLeon Guerrero**, **Rafael V. DeLeon Guerrero**, **Antonio V. DeLeon Guerrero**, and **Matias “Mac” Chargualaf**.

**Jack** will be greatly missed but his warmhearted memories will be cherished forever by his wife, **Edith Villagomez DeLeon Guerrero Cruz**; his sisters and brothers-in-law: **Joseta Q. Cruz** and **Joaquin T. Meno**, Houston, Texas; **Teofila P. Cruz**, Barrigada Heights, Guam; **Mary Q. Cruz Santiago**, Merizo, Guam; and **Ana Q. Cruz** and **Daniel Cordero**, Fayetteville, North Carolina; his brothers- and sisters-in-law: Children of **Pedro V. DeLeon Guerrero** and family; **Maria Angeles “Angie” V. DeLeon Guerrero**; **Celina “Celing” DLG. Chargualaf** and family; **Jesus “JM” V. and Rieko DeLeon Guerrero** and son; Children of **Gregorio V. DeLeon Guerrero**; **Alice B. DeLeon Guerrero** and family; **Ramon V. and Sophia C. DeLeon Guerrero** and family; **Margaret “Doll” DLG.** and **Ricardo Camacho** and family. He will surely be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and special friends.

**Jack** retired from military service at a young age, and continued on with government and private sectors. He was a very caring and giving person. One of his joys was just taking his loving wife, Edith around to many different places and making sure she was taken care of. He was a very devoted person, dedicated most of his time to the church and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. **Jack** loved and enjoyed being with his family and friends and had a passion for helping out where help is needed.

Daily mass of intentions is offered at 6:00AM at Mount Carmel Cathedral and at 6:00PM at San Jose Church.

**Jack** will be with us for the last time on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, beginning at 8:45AM at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for Responso service and public visitation. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed immediately with the Rite of Committal at the CNMI Veteran’s Cemetery in Marpi where we shall bid him farewell in his final resting place.

Your thoughts, prayers, and words of comfort are sincerely appreciated.

*Edith Villagomez DeLeon Guerrero Cruz*  
*The Quinene Cruz and Villagomez DeLeon Guerrero families*

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late

*† Joan James  
Agafano Blanco*

LOVINGLY KNOWN  
AS "JIMBO"

SUNRISE: NOVEMBER 29, 1976  
SUNSET: JULY 23, 2021

Wish to extend our sincere, heartfelt thank you and appreciation to our families, relatives and friends for your prayers, comforting expressions of sympathy, kind assistance and generosity to us during our time of sorrow, for the loss of our beloved one who is now in God's everlasting care.

Your presence, prayers, and acts of kindness have touched us and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

*Thank you, Ghilisow,  
Si Yiaus Ma'ase*

CARMEN S. BLANCO,  
CHILDREN, & FAMILY

# Health & Wellness

This advertorial  
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

## How to start a running routine

By JASON HOWLAND  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

**R**unning is one of the easiest ways to work out and stay fit. But for beginners, how do you get started?

"I think the best part about running is that it's a very simple exercise. All you really need is a pair of shoes and the motivation," says Dr. Chad Asplund, a Mayo Clinic sports medicine physician.

But he says it's important to start a running routine the right way.

"Take a step back and sort of do a self-assessment on your fitness level. How long it's been since you've exercised previously? And whether you have any underlying medical conditions that may become an issue if you start a vigorous exercise program," says Asplund.

Once you have the all-clear, don't overdo it right out of the gate. Instead, begin with a walk-to-run program.

"Where you start with a mix of walk/run, then gradually build up to a smaller amount of running. And then

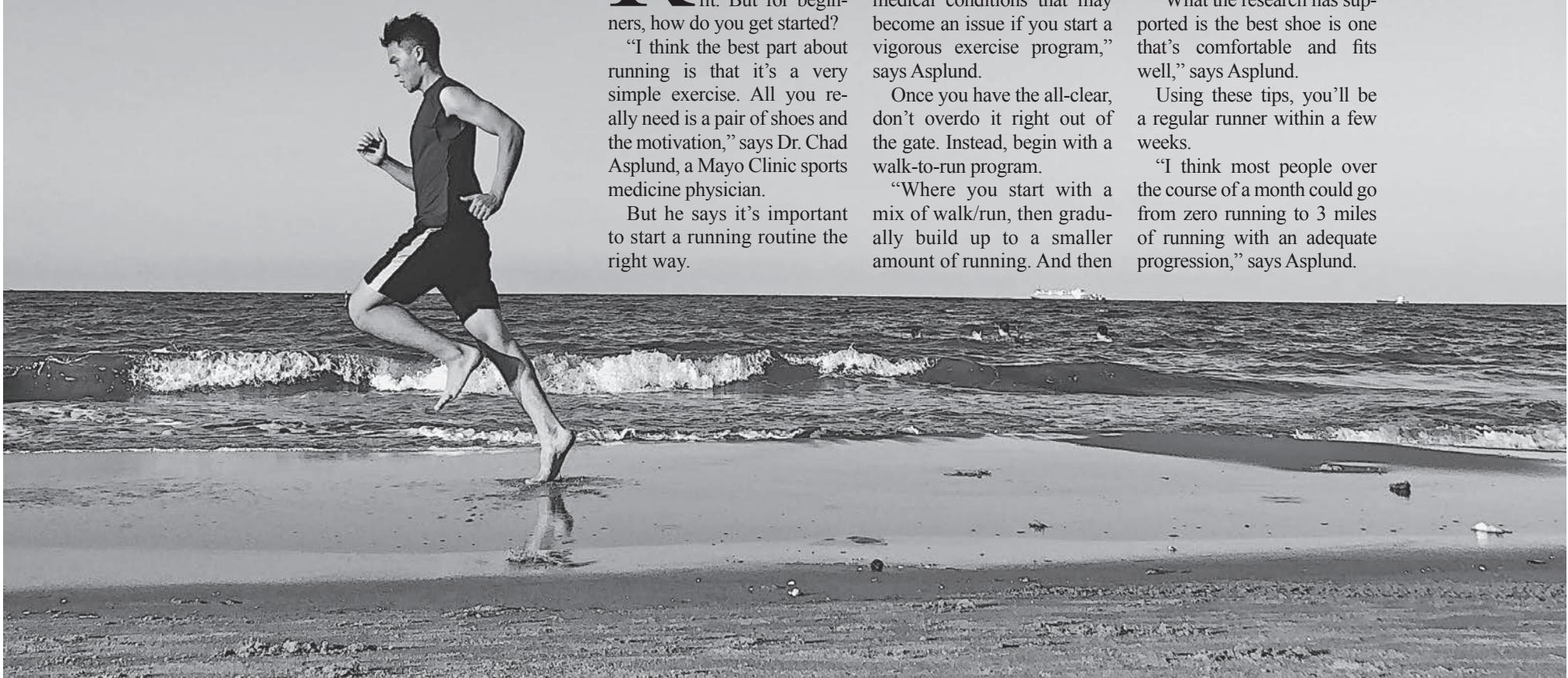
you increase that running until you get to your goal," he says.

And for runners, the most important piece of sports equipment is on their feet.

"What the research has supported is the best shoe is one that's comfortable and fits well," says Asplund.

Using these tips, you'll be a regular runner within a few weeks.

"I think most people over the course of a month could go from zero running to 3 miles of running with an adequate progression," says Asplund.



## COVID-19 infection among vaccinated people: What you need to know

By DEEDEE STIEPAN  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

As the delta variant continues to spread across the country, new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show vaccinated people can still spread COVID-19. Breakthrough infections of the highly contagious delta variant also have been reported. This new information has led to questions surrounding the effectiveness of the current COVID-19 vaccines.

The Mayo Clinic New Network team sat down with Dr. John O'Horo, a Mayo Clinic infectious diseases specialist. In this Q&A, he breaks down what people should know about COVID-19 infection and transmission among people who have been vaccinated for COVID-19:

**Q. Can people who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19**

**still transmit COVID-19 and its variants, specifically the delta variant?**

**A.** Fully vaccinated people have the potential to transmit COVID-19 to others. This appears to be reduced with vaccination, but it's not reduced enough to allow for unmasking in all situations because of this potential. That's why people in areas of high transmission are still asked to mask. This is also why people who are in areas where they're especially vulnerable patients or people like in hospital settings where we take care of patients who may have weaker immune systems are still recommended to wear masks to protect those who are at the highest risk of transmission, even from vaccinated people.

We know that some people who are vaccinated have the ability to have high levels of virus in their nose and in their



throat, even if they don't have symptoms. This isn't a surprise, as many different types of vaccines prevent illness, but don't necessarily prevent you from being able to transmit that illness to others.

**Q. Why should people get vaccinated for COVID-19 if**

**they can still be infected or spread it to others?**

**A.** What I say to people who are concerned that they can still get infected by the delta variant even though they're vaccinated is your illness if you get infected is going to be far, far less severe than if you don't get

vaccinated. Most people who get vaccinated aren't going to get infected. Of those who get infected, the vaccination takes what can be a deadly illness down to something you may not even aware of, or a bad cold at the worst. Unless you are immunocompromised or have

conditions where the vaccination doesn't really take, and you're in one of those vulnerable groups, your risk of having a severe infection that lands you in the hospital or puts you in mortal danger is far, far lower when you get vaccinated.

**Q. How will widespread vaccination help stop the spread of COVID-19 and its variants?**

**A.** Widespread vaccination is still our road back to normal. If enough people are vaccinated, we will reduce transmission of the virus. We know that even though it's not perfect at reducing transmission, it drastically reduces that. It reduces your risk of being hospitalized or having severe illness even more, and if enough people are vaccinated, the risk of overwhelming hospitals or having large numbers of sick people goes down, and we can start to get back to normal.

# Life & Style

## CNN fires three employees for coming to work unvaccinated

**NEW YORK** (AP)—CNN has fired three employees who violated company policy by coming to work unvaccinated against the COVID-19 virus.

CNN chief Jeff Zucker told staff members of the firing in a memo sent Thursday that reminded them that vaccines were mandatory if they report to the office or out in the field where they come into contact with other employees.

"Let me be clear—we have a zero tolerance policy on this," wrote Zucker, chairman of news and sports for WarnerMedia.

The memo was obtained by The Associated Press after its contents were first tweeted by

CNN media reporter Oliver Darcy. CNN offered no details on the firings, or where the employees were based.

Most of CNN's offices are already open on a voluntary basis, and Zucker said more than a third of news staff members have returned. Proof of vaccination has been left to the honor system, he said, but that may change in coming weeks.

The CNN leader said that masks will be required in Atlanta, Washington and Los Angeles offices when people aren't eating, drinking or in an enclosed private space. Even in offices where mask-wearing is not mandated, people should do what feels com-



This Jan. 17, 2001 file photo shows pedestrians entering CNN Center, the headquarters for CNN, in downtown Atlanta. AP

### Arrest in hit-and-run death of 'Gone Girl' actor Lisa Banes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The rider of an unlicensed electric scooter involved in the hit-and-run death of "Gone Girl" actor Lisa Banes was well aware that he hit her, fleeing to a repair shop afterward seeking to fix a sideview mirror, authorities said Friday.



Banes

Brian Boyd was arrested Thursday and charged with leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death and failure to yield to a pedestrian.

Boyd, 26, was released under strict supervision following a court appearance on Friday. There was no immediate response to a message left with his attorney.

Police say they built the case on security videotape showing Banes walking in a crosswalk on the Upper West Side of Manhattan in early June when

she was struck by the scooter after it ran a red light—a growing hazard in the city.

A police officer who reviewed a video from the scene said in court papers that on it both "the pedestrian and the operator of the electric scooter fall to the ground." After that, "I further observed the operator stand up, pick up his electric scooter, walk over to the individual lying in the street, and then walk back to his electric scooter and drive away," the papers say.

Another video showed the "operator of the electric scooter ride from the crash location to Bolt Bike Shop ... where the operator is observed interacting with employees of the bike shop and waiting for repairs to the electric scooter," the complaint says.

### Britney Spears' father says 'no grounds' for his removal

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Britney Spears' father said in a court filing Friday that there are "no grounds whatsoever" for removing him from the conservatorship that controls her money and affairs.

James Spears "has dutifully and faithfully served as the conservator of his daughter's estate without any blemishes on his record," the filing said.

James Spears' filing also says that court-appointed professional Jodi Montgomery, who oversees Britney Spears' life decisions while her father handles her money, called him, distraught, last month and sought his help with his daughter's mental health struggles. Montgomery and her lawyer said in response that James Spears "misrepresented and manipulated" the call to use it to his own advantage.

James Spears' filing came in response to court papers filed a day earlier by Britney

Spears' new attorney Matthew Rosengart, which requested an emergency hearing as soon as possible to suspend him from the conservatorship.

James Spears said Rosengart "does not (and cannot) specify what the wrongdoing is" to prompt such a suspension.

James Spears stepped aside from the part of the conservatorship that controls his daughter's life decisions in 2019, with Montgomery taking over, though her official status remains temporary.

The allegations made by Britney Spears at hearings in June and July that seem to have spurred Rosengart's call for her father's removal, including "serious allegations regarding forced medical treatment and therapy, improper medical care, and limitations on personal rights," are "untested" and involve issues that have long been Montgomery's responsibility, not

his, said Jamie Spears' filing.

James Spears says the call for his urgent removal is "ironic" considering the call he received from Montgomery on July 9.

"Ms. Montgomery sounded very distraught and expressed how concerned she was about my daughters' recent behavior and overall mental health," James Spears said in a personal declaration included with his court filing. "Ms. Montgomery explained that my daughter was not timely or properly taking her medications, was not listening to the recommendations of her medical team, and refused to even see some of her doctors. Ms. Montgomery said she was very worried about the direction my daughter was heading in and directly asked for my help to address these issues."

James Spears said they discussed the possibility of hospitalizing Britney Spears on an emergency psychiatric hold.

fortable to them "without any fear of retaliation or judgment from co-workers," he said.

The CNN memo also said a planned Sept. 7 company-wide return to the office will be delayed until at least early to mid-October. Other media companies have been making similar decisions because of the rise in COVID cases; the AP told employees on Thursday that an expected Sept. 13 return has also been delayed.

### Ed Sheeran to headline NFL's kickoff concert next month

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Ed Sheeran will perform in a concert to kickoff the NFL season opener in Florida next month.

The NFL announced Friday that Sheeran will headline a pregame concert Sept. 9 at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park in Tampa, Florida.

The British pop star's performance will take place before the reigning Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers face off against the Dallas Cowboys.

A portion of the performance will appear on pre-game programs on NBC and the NFL Network. His full performance will be streamed on NFL.com along with the league's Facebook page and app.

Sheeran is a four-time Grammy winner who took a break from work and social media in late 2019 after two years of touring in support of his best-selling album "Divide." He recently released his single "Bad Habits."

**Sheeran**

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### Woman won't marry boyfriend because of his mom

**D**EAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for 19 years. He wants to get married, but I keep putting it off. I was married before; he's never been married. I haven't done it because I can't get over something his mom did to me more than 10 years ago.

I was close with her. Her daughter-in-law and I knew each other from when we were younger, but we never got along. Well, she convinced my boyfriend's mom that I was sleeping with a friend of theirs, which was a lie. Instead of coming to me asking me about it, she and her DIL came to my house, screaming at me and ordered me to let my boyfriend go so he could be happy and find someone else, since I was messing around. I was so stunned I just said, "Fine!" and told them to leave. My boyfriend was furious. He called his mom and yelled at her. When she realized it wasn't true, she apologized.

My issue is, I was more hurt than mad because of how it was handled. Am I being selfish and stubborn?

STILL HURT IN FLORIDA

**DEAR STILL HURT:** You are neither selfish nor stubborn. You are foolish. If you think you are punishing your boyfriend's mother by refusing to marry her son (for 19 years!), you are mistaken. It hasn't affected her at all. I do

#### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



think you are overdue in finding a way to bury the hatchet with the woman whose mistake was in believing everything she was told.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Before my husband and I married, we were regaled with stories about the antiques that would come to him because he is the eldest son. We spent many long weekends across the country taking care of the in-laws' "honey-do" lists, and my mother-in-law often told us this-and-that item would be ours someday.

Well, guess what? They turned around and gave every single one to my brother-in-law. Yes, I realize it's their privilege to

dispose of their property as they wish. But how do we reconcile feeling used? Am I out of bounds because I expected their promise to be honored and remembered? I no longer care to be around them or hear their empty promises. I feel they defrauded my husband by promising tens of thousands of dollars' worth of silver and furniture, and then handed it all to his brother. Any advice?

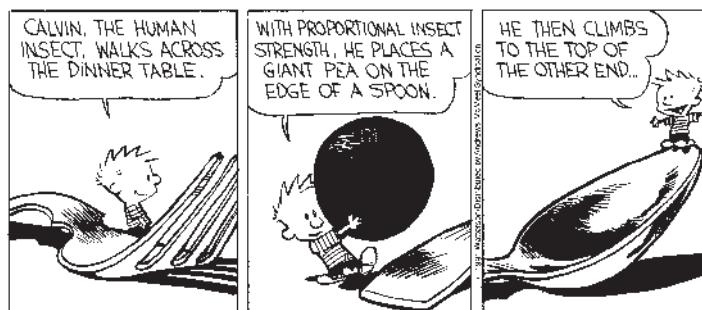
SLIGHTED IN LOUISIANA

**DEAR SLIGHTED:** Ask your in-laws politely why they promised the heirlooms to you and your husband and then gave them to his brother. If they planned to follow through, it should have been put in writing in case something unexpected happened. Unless there is something you didn't include in your letter, what your in-laws did was terrible. In the future, it would be understandable if you were less at their beck and call when their "honey-do" list needs attending to.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



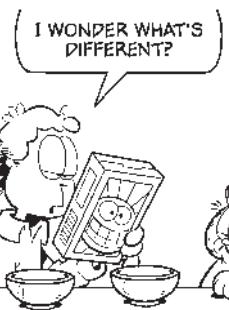
By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

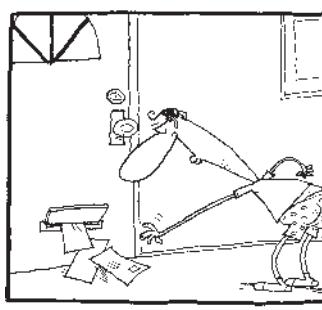


By Jim Davis

## Adam@home



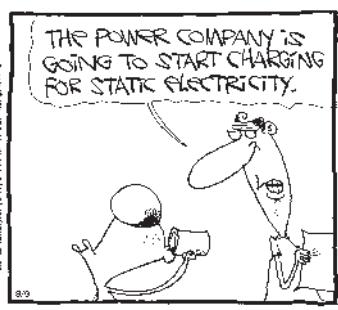
By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

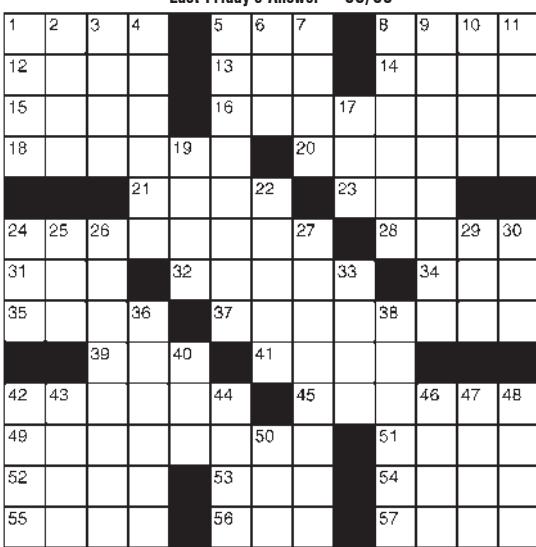


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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32 Dressed								
to the —								
34 Epoch								
35 Criminal,								
to cops								

Last Friday's Answer 08/09



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adele, Adelaide Kane, 31; Anna Kendrick, 36; Daniel Levy, 38; Hoda Kotb, 57.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep your life simple. Don't overreact or take on more than you can handle. Concentrate on what's important to you and give it everything you've got. If you scatter your energy, you will fall short of expectations. An intellectual approach to life, love and happiness will pay off. Hone your skills, and make every move you make matter. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 25, 36, 38, 43.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Share your thoughts and concerns with like-minded people. Offer insight into more efficient ways to bring about positive change. Prepare to put muscle behind your plan and turn it into a reality. Take care of important details yourself. ☀️☀️

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Gather and verify information; it will lead to a change of attitude and better choices. Simplify your life and the way you do things to suit your current emotional and financial situation. Don't overspend; generosity will be your downfall. ☀️

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Take the experience you have and put it to good use. Once others see how capable you are, you'll receive more opportunities. Don't take a risk with your health or your reputation. Stick to the truth, and don't share personal information. ☀️☀️☀️

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Pay close attention to debt, overhead and unnecessary spending. Spend more time working on personal growth, creative endeavors and hang-

ing out with people who aren't high maintenance. Don't jeopardize your position, regardless of what others do. Put health and well-being first. ☀️☀️

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Think big, but be realistic, and you will excel. An opportunity will be too good to ignore. Make adjustments that allow you to accommodate whatever is necessary to follow through with your plans. Rely on experience to make better decisions. ☀️☀️

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be willing to adjust if it will help resolve an issue you face with a friend or relative. Meeting someone midway will encourage a smooth transaction and future dealings. Encourage taking a unique approach to a meaningful relationship. Romance is on the rise. ☀️☀️

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll learn a lot if you observe others. Distance yourself from anyone who is inconsistent or impulsive. Concentrate on home, family and doing what's best for you and the ones you love. Give back to someone who's been helpful. ☀️☀️

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Embrace what life has to offer. An unexpected opportunity will give you a chance to use your skills uniquely. Focus on creative endeavors, and everything else will fall into place. Someone special will grab your attention. Love will lift your spirits. ☀️☀️☀️

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone is withholding information or feeding you false hope. Use your intelligence to filter through what's happening, and you'll

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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discover the truth. Take the high road; stick close to someone who has always had your back. ☀️

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll spot a good deal. Make your move and bring about changes at home and portfolio. A chance to get ahead is apparent. Be transparent regarding what you have to offer. A commitment will add to your emotional stability. ☀️☀️☀️

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put on the brakes, size up a situation and don't go over budget. Be realistic about what's possible, and stick to people you know you can rely on for support. Control your emotions when dealing with personal relationships. ☀️

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Partnerships will play essential roles in the way things unfold. Put your heart into something meaningful, which will help you get to know someone who has a positive influence on the decisions you make. Romance will enhance your life. ☀️

**Birthday Baby:** You are sensitive, inspirational and optimistic. You are outgoing and unpredictable. ☀️: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀️: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀️: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀️: Aim high; start new projects. ☀️: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

**Sudoku** is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			8	6	3			
8	9				6	1		
5	6				7	3		
1			3	4			9	
9				7			4	
3			1	2			6	
2	8				1	9		
5	4				8	7		
			9	2	8			

Last Friday's Answer

7	6	2	5	9	4	1	8	3
3	4	9	8	2	1	7	6	5
8	1	5	7	6	3	9	4	2
1	9	4	3	5	6	8	2	7
5	7	3	2	8	9	4	1	6
2	8	6	4	1	7	5	3	9
4	5	7	1	3	2	6	9	8
6	2	1	9	7	8	3	5	4
9	3	8	6	4	5	2	7	1

© 2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Inc.

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CALIFORNIA WINE COUNTRY

Solution: 9 letters

A	T	M	E	R	U	S	A	L	L	E	C	C	U	B
E	L	T	H	T	O	R	G	L	C	V	R	I	N	N
B	S	E	E	I	M	A	E	E	E	T	T	E	D	O
E	K	T	X	N	T	E	L	W	J	Y	K	R	D	N
R</														

# Yankees beat Mariners 5-4 for 5th straight victory



N E W  
Y O R K  
(A P)

LeMahieu and Kyle Higashioka made savvy baserunning moves, turning a double-play grounder into the go-ahead run, and the New York Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 5-4 on Saturday for their fifth straight victory.

Aaron Judge and Rougned Odor homered and the Yankees capitalized on a three-base error by right fielder Mitch Haniger to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

New York erased a 4-1 deficit by scoring four times in the sixth inning. The Yankees have won the first three in a four-game series against Seattle in a matchup of teams in the playoff chase. The Mariners fell to 3-6 on a 10-game trip and each loss has been decided by no more than two runs.

Odor hit a two-run drive inside the right field foul pole to pull the Yankees to 4-3 in the sixth. With one out, pinch-hitter Gleyber Torres hit a fly and Haniger raced back, appeared to overrun it and then slipped, allowing the ball to get to the warning track.

Higashioka delivered a tying, pinch-hit double with one out and took third on LeMahieu's single off Casey Sadler (0-2).

Anthony Rizzo followed with a sharp grounder to first baseman Ty France, who stepped on the bag. Higashioka broke for home while France focused on LeMahieu, who alertly stopped first and second. LeMahieu forced a rundown and was tagged out after Higashioka had crossed the plate for the tiebreaking run.

Andrew Heaney (7-8) settled down after a rocky beginning for his first win since being traded from the Los Angeles Angels to the Yankees. Jonathan Loaisiga pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save in place of Aroldis Chapman, who was put on the injured list before the game with left elbow inflammation.

Kyle Seager homered for Seattle.

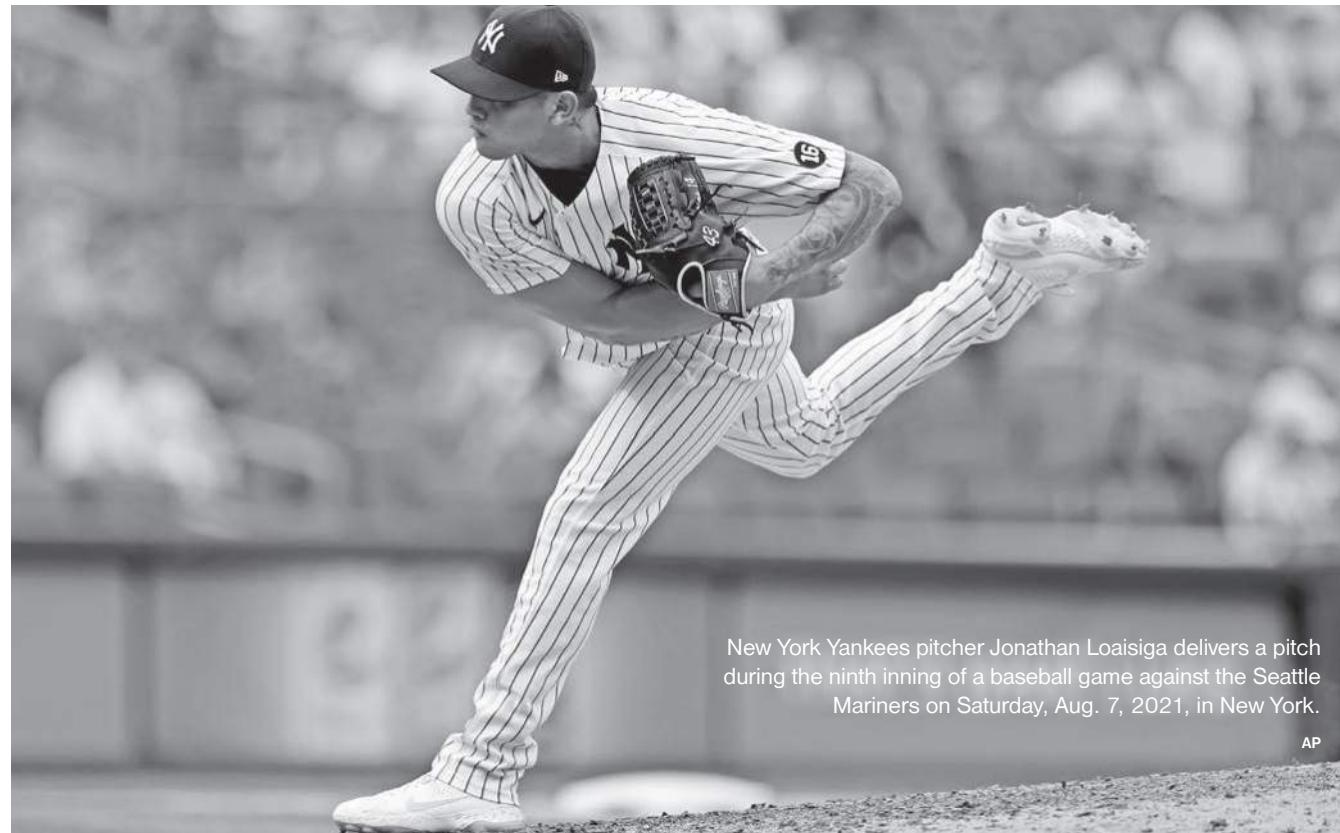
## Blue Jays 1, Red Sox 0, 1st game Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1, 8 innings, 2nd game

In Toronto, Jonathan Araúz singled home the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning and Boston beat Toronto to split a doubleheader.

Matt Barnes (6-3) worked one inning for the victory. Adam Ottavino finished for his eighth save. The Red Sox won for the second time in their past 10 games.

Facing right-hander Adam Cimber (2-3), Araúz grounded a leadoff single past shortstop Bo Bichette to score Franchy Cordero.

Toronto won the opener when Marcus Semien led off the bottom of the seventh by



New York Yankees pitcher Jonathan Loaisiga delivers a pitch during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners on Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, in New York.

AP

connecting on the first pitch from Barnes (5-3). It was Semien's 26th home run of the season and the first game-ending homer of his career.

Jordan Romano (5-1) pitched a perfect seventh for the win.

Before the opener, Boston put slugger J.D. Martinez on the COVID-19-related injured list. The Red Sox have scored five runs or fewer in 15 consecutive games.

## Giants 9, Brewers 6, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Brandon Belt hit his second homer of the night during a four-run outburst in the 11th inning and San Francisco beat Milwaukee in a wild game between division leaders.

Each team scored three runs in the 10th inning—with Luis Urias and Willy Adames homering for Milwaukee—after the Giants tied it on two-out triple in the ninth.

LaMonte Wade put the Giants ahead for good in the 11th with a one-out single that scored Austin Slater. Belt followed with a two-run shot to right. Kris Bryant capped the rally with an RBI double.

All four of the Giants' 11th-inning runs came off Sal Romano (0-1) in his Brewers debut. Belt also hit a solo shot in the fourth and has three homers over the last two nights.

Jake McGee (4-2) pitched the 11th with a 9-5 lead and was credited with the win after allowing only one run on Lorenzo Cain's two-out single.

## Phillies 5, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, Brad Miller homered twice and first-place Philadelphia withstood a ninth-inning rally for its seventh straight victory, beating New York.

Odubel Herrera hit a three-run homer and doubled to help the Phillies increase their NL

East lead over New York to 1 1/2 games.

The Mets have lost six of seven and eight of 10. They had just two hits before Michael Conforto, Jonathan Villar and James McCann started the ninth with three consecutive homers to match a club record. Two more batters reached base before Ian Kennedy struck out Pete Alonso and J.D. Davis for his 18th save and second with the Phillies.

A double by pitcher Tyler Megill (1-2) and an infield single by Javier Báez were the only Mets hits through eight innings. J.D. Hammer (1-0) was the winner.

## Dodgers 5, Angels 3

In Los Angeles, Chris Taylor broke an eighth-inning tie with a two-run double and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied to beat the Angels.

The Dodgers trailed 3-2 in the seventh before Cody Bellinger homered off Angels starter Jaime Barria.

Corey Seager led off the eighth with an infield single and advanced to second on Will Smith's one-out hit. That set the stage for Taylor, who lined a sinker from Junior Guerra (2-2) into left-center.

Left fielder Justin Upton wasn't able to get to it in time and slipped as the ball rolled to the wall before it was retrieved by Brandon Marsh.

Brusdar Graterol (2-0) worked out of a jam in the eighth to get the win. Kenley Jansen retired the side in order in the ninth for his 23rd save.

## White Sox 4, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Carlos Rodón struck out 11 in five stellar innings. Cesar Hernandez and José Abreu hit back-to-back home runs and the Chicago White Sox beat the Cubs.

Yoán Moncada added a two-run double for the White Sox in their second straight win in the crosstown series at

Wrigley Field.

Rodón and the White Sox bullpen combined for 17 strikeouts. David Bote had two of the five hits for the Cubs, who have dropped three straight and five of six.

## Athletics 12, Rangers 3

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Olson matched his career high with four hits, including a two-run double as part of Oakland's seven-run third inning, and the Athletics handed Texas its 13th consecutive road loss. Yan Gomes and Josh Harrison also homered. Oakland's sputtering offense batted around in consecutive innings for the first time since 2016. A's newcomer Starling Marte added a pair of hits to continue his surge at the plate. Oakland has won seven of nine.

Cole Irvin (8-10) pitched four-hit ball over seven innings.

## Astros 4, Twins 0

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez hit the 50th home run of his career, rookie Luis Garcia pitched six scoreless innings and three relievers completed the four-hitter to help Houston beat Minnesota.

Alvarez, who was playing in his 184th career game, reached 50 home runs faster than any player in franchise history, passing Lance Berkman, who did it in his 231st game in 2001. The Astros had lost three in a row and five of six.

Alvarez connected on his homer off Michael Pineda (4-7) with no outs in the fourth to make it 2-0. The shot pushed the team's streak of consecutive games with a homer to 17, the longest in the majors since 2019.

## Nationals 3, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Riley Adams' two-run homer in the ninth gave Washington the lead and the Nationals rallied with three runs off Atlanta closer Will Smith.

## Padres 6, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Manny Machado singled home the go-ahead run in a four-run eighth inning in San Diego's victory over Arizona.

Yu Darvish struck out 12 to match his season strikeout high and didn't walk a batter in seven brilliant innings while holding Arizona to two runs and four hits. He left with the score tied at 2.

In the eighth, Adam Frazier hit a leadoff single against Brett de Geus (2-1) and stole second without a throw. Machado then singled to bring in Frazier. Joe Mantiply walked Trent Grisham with the bases loaded, and pinch-hitter Austin Nola had a two-run single. Drew Pomeranz (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth.

## Cardinals 5, Royals 2

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado homered, pinch-hitter Matt Carpenter had a tiebreaking double and St. Louis beat Kansas City.

Yadier Molina had an early two-run single for the Cardinals (55-55), who reached .500 for the 21st time this season. They have won 16 of their last 22 against Kansas City.

Luis García (1-0) had three strikeouts in two shutout innings for his first major league win since Aug. 29, 2019, with the Angels against Boston. Ryan Helsley and Génesis Cabrera each tossed a scoreless inning before Giovanny Gallegos worked the ninth for his second save.

## Rockies 7, Marlins 4

In Denver, Austin Gomber rebounded from his shortest start of the season to strike out a career-high nine, leading Colorado past Miami.

Gomber (9-6) threw 40 pitches in one inning of work Sunday at San Diego but looked strong in six innings against Miami. He allowed five hits, didn't walk a batter and struck out the last four he faced.

Colorado's Brendan Rodgers doubled to extend his hitting streak to 14 games. He Rodgers left in the sixth after he was hit on the right hand by a pitch from reliever Zach Pop. The team announced he had a bruised right hand and is day-to-day.

## Tigers 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera remained two home runs shy of 500, but Tyler Alexander tossed a season-high 5 1/3 scoreless innings to help Detroit beat Cleveland.

Cabrera went 0 for 3 with a walk, keeping his career total at 498 homers. He's trying to become the 28th player in major league history with 500.

Alexander (2-1) allowed four hits without issuing a walk, striking out four in his seventh appearance since moving into the rotation.

# Durant makes sure gold medal stays with US



**SAITAMA, Japan** (AP)—With the gold medal in jeopardy, the U.S. knew where to turn to protect it.

It could only be Captain America.

Even before he was wrapped up in a flag that looked like a cape, Kevin Durant played the part of a hero for the U.S. basketball team—again. And if the French wanted to leave with the gold medal, they were going to have to take it from his grip.

"He's the guy who's cool under pressure," U.S. assistant coach Steve Kerr said. "He hits the big shots."

That's what Durant did to close out the gold-medal game Saturday. With a three-point lead and under 10 seconds remaining, the Americans passed it in to Durant, who was fouled and calmly sank the two free throws with 8.8 seconds remaining for the final points in an 87-82 victory.

Durant finished with 29 points, just off the 30 he scored in the last two Olympic gold-medal games. The four-time NBA scoring champion is in the discussion as the best player in the league.

As for the best player in Olympic basketball, that debate seems to have ended in Japan.

"That's a special, special man, and he carried this team like we needed him to, like he's supposed to coming back for his third Olympics, all-time USA scorer," said U.S. forward Draymond Green, Durant's former teammate in Golden State. "There's been a lot of great players to don this jersey, and he's No. 1 and that's a special thing."

Durant, who passed Carmelo Anthony earlier in the



United States' Kevin Durant (7) celebrates after their win in the men's basketball gold medal game against France at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 7, 2021, in Saitama, Japan.

AP

Olympics to become the leading scorer in U.S. men's history, joined Anthony as the only three-time gold medalists in men's basketball.

Durant couldn't choose which Olympics is the most special, because to him they all are.

"I'm just happy to be here," he said. "I'm happy to be part of this group for life."

It might have been a group of silver medalists without Durant's greatness. Unlike his last two Olympics, when he played with Anthony and other experienced superstars, this was a team filled with international rookies, a team with a roster that wasn't set until shortly before the tournament.

While Durant could largely focus on being a scorer in his previous Olympics, the Americans needed him to be their leader this time. He showed his teammates what it took, with coach Gregg Popovich saying watching him was like "osmosis" for them.

"He's not special because he's so talented. It's the way he works on his game is more impressive, the relationships he builds with his teammates," Popovich said.

Durant was a constant comfort during nervous times for the Americans throughout the tournament. When the U.S. struggled early Saturday, Durant scored 12 points and had 21 by halftime.

"I think he's the best scorer in basketball and he's going to do what he does, especially on the biggest stage like the Olympic games," France center Rudy Gobert said.

Durant takes tremendous pride donning the red, white and blue. And his commitment to USA Basketball has been invaluable.

Another flurry early in the third quarter after France cut the deficit to four provided a double-digit lead, room it turned out the Americans would need to hold on for their fourth straight gold medal.

"Kevin Durant has been one of the great players ever to play for USAB," outgoing managing director Jerry Col-

angelo said, getting choked up and adding, "he's very special."

Colangelo recalled meeting Durant while the forward was spending one season at Texas in 2006-07, inviting him to the U.S. training camp that summer. Durant quickly accepted.

"He said, 'I'll be there,' and it's never changed," Colangelo said.

That's partly because Durant loves playing with guys he can only watch and compete against during the NBA season. He said each team he's been on—including a gold medal-winning squad in the 2010 world basketball championships—builds a bond that always remains.

It's unknown if he could have played had the Olympics been held as scheduled in 2020. Durant had ruptured his Achilles tendon in the 2019 NBA Finals and sat out the 2019-20 season. He was working his way through rehabilitation when the Olympics were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Given an extra year, Durant signed on again even after a difficult NBA season. He battled a hamstring injury that limited him to just 35 games before his Brooklyn Nets lost a grueling seven-game series against eventual champion Milwaukee in the second round of the playoffs.

He's going to be staying with the Nets for the long term after agreeing to a four-year, \$198 million contract extension hours before the gold-medal game.

Durant didn't rule out joining the Americans again in 2024 in Paris, when the French would surely love to avenge this loss on home soil.

France beat the U.S. in the opener of these Olympics and nearly beat the U.S. again Saturday, further proving that the world's best teams are catching up to the Americans.

Nobody, though, is catching up to Durant on the world stage.

"He's fearless. I've said it before: He's the most skilled basketball player ever. I mean that," Kerr said. "There's nobody that's his size, 6-11, that combines shooting and ball-handling skills and athleticism. You've never seen it before."

"So, this tournament was a perfect example of why you need the best players to win and win championships. And Kevin is the best player in the tournament."

## Curry finalizes \$215M extension, Warriors build around him



**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Stephen Curry finalized his \$215 million, four-year contract extension Friday as the Golden State Warriors began building the roster around the longtime face of the franchise at the start of free agency.

"We're thrilled to have Stephen in the fold for the next five years, with the vision of him playing his entire career with our franchise," general manager Bob Myers said. "He epitomizes everything that you'd want in the leader of your basketball team with incredible character, humility, community-minded spirit and a team-oriented approach. On the court, he's a generational player who has changed the game and won consistently at the highest level."

This marks the second \$200 million-plus contract of Curry's decorated career that includes three championships. He will earn \$48 million for the 2022-23 season, then \$51.9 million in '23-'24, \$55.7 million in '24-'25 and \$59.6 million in the final year of the deal.

Earlier in the day, Golden State signed free agent forward Nemanja Bjelica to a one-year contract that will pay him the league minimum and added free agent forward Otto Porter Jr., also on a veteran minimum contract for next season worth \$2,389,641.

Bjelica, the veteran big man from Serbia whose name is pronounced NEH-mahn-yah Bee-a-LITZ-ah, is set to earn \$2,089,448 given his six years of NBA experience.

"This is the best fit for me



In this April 15, 2021, file photo, Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) goes to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen (31) and Isaac Okoro during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland.

He is ready to handle any role for coach Steve Kerr to help the Warriors make another deep playoff run.

"My agent told me Warriors are interested. I didn't think at all, it took me less than a minute," he said. "Finally, I'm going to play with the guys like Steph and Klay and Draymond. I played against them for seven years. Now I'm going to be their teammate."

... I know why I'm here, this is a winning franchise. It's an honor and a great opportunity for me to play with the best players in the league."

Porter averaged 9.7 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.0 assists in 21.7 minutes per game over 28 games with six starts between the Bulls and Magic last season.

Earlier this week, Curry reached agreement on the new deal that takes him through the 2025-26 season,

when he will be 38. He has said he might play until he's 40 and wants to retire with the Warriors.

Curry averaged 32.0 points, 5.8 assists and 5.5 rebounds and shot 42.1% from 3-point range for the Warriors, who lost in the play-in tournament to Memphis. The two-time MVP shined despite the injured Klay Thompson's absence for a second straight season.

"We're blessed and fortunate to have him on our team, and are thankful to be part of an organization, led by Joe Lacob and Peter Guber, that is committed to winning," Myers added.

Golden State also has agreed to trade power forward Eric Paschall to the Jazz for a 2026 protected second-round draft pick via Memphis. It was the Grizzlies who ended the Warriors' season in the play-in tournament.

# US women beat Brazil to win 1st Olympic volleyball gold

**TOKYO** (AP)—The decades-long quest for the first Olympic gold medal for the U.S. women's volleyball team ended Sunday when the Americans finally broke through with a 25-21, 25-20, 25-14 victory over Brazil.

The United States, which had won three silver medals and two bronze since first getting on the medal stand in 1984, got to the top step by beating the team that denied it a chance at gold in the final match of the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Captain Jordan Larson, who was part of that silver-winning team in 2012 and the bronze medal team five years ago, paved the way with her leadership on the court and her strong play on the attack and on defense.

Larson and middle blocker Foluke Akinradewo Gundersen, who both came back for a third Olympics after falling short in Rio de Janeiro, now have a complete medal collection following the final Olympic match of their careers.

The victory also allowed U.S. coach Karch Kiraly to join Lang Ping of China as the second person to win gold as a volleyball player and then lead a country to gold as coach.



Players from the United States react while playing Brazil during the gold medal match in women's volleyball at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. AP

Kiraly won gold indoor as a player in 1984 and 1988. He also won gold in beach volleyball in 1996.

The U.S. got off to a fast start by scoring the first four points behind strong attacking by Michelle Bartsch-Hackley. It never trailed in the opening, winning it 25-21 on a soft shot by Bartsch-Hackley that gave her eight points in the set.

The Americans played from ahead for most of the second set as well, and Larson's well-placed soft shot at the net put them up 22-17. They closed

out the set when Carol Silva's serve went long.

That pattern continued in the third set, and the match ended in fitting style with a kill by Larson, completing a sweep by the Americans of all nine sets in the knockout stage. The U.S. players all gathered on the floor in a tearful hug.

Brazil had won gold in either men's or women's indoor volleyball in four straight Olympics, with the men claiming the title in 2004 and 2016 and the women in 2008 and 2012.

But it will leave only with a silver this year, after the women lost for the first time in Tokyo following seven straight wins. The men lost a semifinal match to the Russians and then the bronze medal game against Argentina.

Brazil played the match short-handed after outside hitter Tandara Caixeta was sent home before the semifinals following her suspension for a potential violation of anti-doping rules. Tandara's lawyer said a banned substance found in a July test was introduced

accidentally into her system.

The U.S. also dealt with absences. Opposite Jordan Thompson, who led the Americans in scoring in the first three matches, didn't play again after rolling her right ankle in the fourth pool play match against the Russians.

But the depth that has made the U.S. one of the top teams the past two decades despite no gold medal overcame that and an injury that sidelined setter Jordyn Poulter for the quarter-final. Annie Drews stepped up in Thompson's place and the U.S. didn't miss a beat.

The journey to this stage has been a long one for a U.S. women's team that started more than 40 years ago when the 1980 Olympic squad made the decision to begin year-round training, only to get denied the opportunity to compete because of a U.S.-led boycott of the Games in Moscow.

But the foundation had been put in place, and the Americans have won six medals in the past 10 Olympics and now finally have their gold.

In the bronze medal game, Serbia beat South Korea 25-18, 25-15, 25-15 to go home with a women's volleyball medal for the second straight Olympics. The Serbians won silver in 2016 for their first medal in the sport.

## ROLLERS

*From Page 24*

there was more I could have done.' I am also an avid gamer and follow a couple of e-sports. My favorite team is TSM and I remember watching one of their videos and saw that they were working with a sport psychologist. After doing my own research into the field I realized that that is what I wanted to do."

Omori also reminisced about his time playing for the Rollers Basketball Association and how it molded him to what he is right now.

"I joined the Rollers relatively late; it was the summer before my senior year of high school. The first lesson I learned was humility. I thought I was a pretty good basketball player so when I went to my first practice I thought I would stand out, I did but not for good reasons. My conditioning was awful, my skills were lacking, and I seemed out of place."

He said he understood right away that there was work he needed to put in, as he saw the discrepancy in skill and told himself "I can just not come to another practice, no one

would mind anyway." That's when he learned the important lesson of community.

"We were in the last drill of practice. It had a mix of ball handling, shooting, and speed; again, I was bad at all of that. As I finished my set I remember a teammate, Justin Cayading, came up to me. He definitely saw me struggling and maybe he could tell that I wanted to quit because he said 'Hey I know it's hard but keep coming to practice and you will get better.' At the time I only knew of Justin, he was a friend of a friend but

he still went out of his way to talk to me even though he was miles ahead of me as a basketball player. Those two values—humility and community—are what I took away from my time with the Rollers. With humility I approach every conversation with curiosity, wanting to see what I can learn from other people. We are nothing without the people who support us; having genuine, loving relationships with those around us is so important to being happy," he said.

Rollers coach Joe Diaz said he's very proud of his former

ward's achievement.

"He was a power forward for our Rollers 18U and for like five months I started teaching him basic post-up move and he started picking it up real fast. He also played off-island with us in the Guam Hoopfest Basketball Tournament on November and also suited for our team in the Rotary Youth Basketball League where we finished second," he said.

Omori's mother, Anna Rose, said there are so many adjustments as your son matures into adulthood and leaves home. "I am very proud of my son."

## SHIRLYN

*From Page 24*

the club's Little League baseball and basketball programs," he said.

The original members of the Ol'Aces basketball team are guard/forward Joe A. Lizama, guard Ray A. Tebuteb, center

Basillio W. Odoshi, forward Ambrose T. Ogumoro, forward Louie Tilipao, guard Manny L. Seman, guard Dave L. Lanjyo, center forward Rick I. Rangamar, and forward Martin W. Iginoef.

Rangamar said the funds collected will go toward the club's purchase of sports equipment,

uniforms, and the conduct of upcoming scheduled events. The Ol'Aces board of directors would like to thank the following committee members that spearheaded the event and made this possible: chair Jerry Ayuyu and Ned Norita and Carl Hocog.

"Lastly, big kudos to our

major sponsor, Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot club and all our other sponsors," he said.

The other sponsors of the O'Aces Alumni Golf Charity Classic Rangamar referred to are the following: Max Development, Artman Corp., United Equipment, Johnny's Bar, Kautz Glass, P&A dba

Winners Corp., MP Holdings, Pacific Marine, Oleai Beach & Bar Grill, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Atkins Kroll's Mark "GSM: Sablan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Green Consume, AC Pacific LLC (I Love Saipan), McDonald's of Saipan, and MARPAC Distributor, Inc.

## BRIDGE

*From Page 24*

tournament committee chair Glenn Policare. "To have Bridge Capital step into the Deluxe Sponsor role this year is so greatly appreciated!"

Bridge Capital joins Pacific Eco Laundry as Deluxe sponsors for the tournament. Hole-in-One prizes are a 2021 Toyota Camry LE from Atkins

Kroll Saipan, a 2021 Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, and a 2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors Company, and \$10,000 cash from United Equipment Rental. Presidential Suite Sponsors are Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Marianas Visitors Authority. Deluxe Package Sponsors are Bridge Capital LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors are GrandVrio Resort

Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, IT&E, Kautz Glass and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package Sponsors are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corporation, Dial Rent to Own, DOCOMO Pacific Saipan, Ernst and Young, Ina's Kitchen, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, Kensington Saipan Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and

Pacific Saipan. The tournament is also supported by numerous in-kind sponsors.

The tournament fee of \$140 includes green fee and the awards luncheon, and registration forms are available at [www.saipanhoteles.org](http://www.saipanhoteles.org). For an additional \$30, players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chanc-

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS MEDAL COUNT

	G	S	B	TOT
United States	39	41	33	113
China	38	32	18	88
Japan	27	14	17	58
Britain	22	21	22	65
ROC	20	28	23	71
Australia	17	7	22	46
Italy	10	10	20	40
Germany	10	11	16	37
Netherlands	10	12	14	36
France	10	12	11	33
Canada	7	6	11	24
Brazil	7	6	8	21
New Zealand	7	6	7	20
Cuba	7	3	5	15
Hungary	6	7	7	20
South Korea	6	4	10	20
Poland	4	5	5	14
Czech Republic	4	4	3	11
Kenya	4	4	2	10
Jamaica	4	1	4	9
Norway	4	2	2	8
Spain	3	8	6	17
Switzerland	3	4	6	13
Denmark	3	4	4	11
Sweden	3	6	0	9
Croatia	3	3	2	8
Iran	3	2	2	7
Belgium	3	1	3	7
Bulgaria	3	1	2	6
Slovenia	3	1	1	5
Uzbekistan	3	0	2	5
Turkey	2	2	9	13
Taiwan	2	4	6	12
Georgia	2	5	1	8
Serbia	2	1	5	8
Uganda	2	1	1	4
Ireland	2	0	2	4
Israel	2	0	2	4
Ecuador	2	1	0	3
Greece	2	0	1	3
Qatar	2	0	1	3
Bahamas	2	0	0	2
Kosovo	2	0	0	2
Ukraine	1	6	12	19
Belarus	1	3	3	7
India	1	2	4	7
Austria	1	1	5	7
Hong Kong	1	2	3	6
Egypt	1	1	4	6
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Romania	1	3	0	4
Venezuela	1	3	0	4
Philippines	1	2	1	4
Slovakia	1	2	1	4
Ethiopia	1	1	2	4
Portugal	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	2	0	3
Tunisia	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	0	1	2
Fiji	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Thailand	1	0	1	2
Bermuda	1	0	0	1
Morocco	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	8	8
Azerbaijan	0	3	4	7
Colombia	0	4	1	5
Dominican Republic	0	3	2	5
Armenia	0	2	2	4
Mongolia	0	1	3	4
Mexico	0	0	4	4
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	1	3
Argentina	0	1	2	3
San Marino	0	1	2	3
Jordan	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	0	1	1	2
Nigeria	0	1	1	2
Finland	0	0	2	2
Bahrain	0	1	0	1
Lithuania	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Macedonia	0	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	0	1	0	1
Turkmenistan	0	1	0	1
Botswana	0	0	1	1
Burkina Faso	0	0	1	1
Ivory Coast	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1</



**US women beat Brazil to win 1st Olympic volleyball gold**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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**Yankees beat Mariners 5-4 for 5th straight victory**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Rollers alumnus gets master's degree

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**F**ormer Rollers Basketball Club player Kanata Omori recently completed his Masters of Arts in Sport and Performance Psychology from the University of Denver and is looking forward to a career as a sports psychologist.

"Growing up I never planned on completing a master's degree, even halfway through my undergraduate degree I did not have it in mind. Now that I have one I think it means two things to me—a thank you to my family and support systems and proof to myself that I can do anything I put my mind to. As far as I know I am the first person in my family to earn a master's degree," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Omori said his parents sacrificed time and money to raise him and his brother and that's why he wanted to make sure that whatever he decided to do he would be able to make them proud.

"I like being comfortable, it's fun easy and stress free. But most anything we re-



ally want in life is anything but comfortable. I moved out to a new state, where I knew absolutely nobody (nothing new for an islander going to the mainland) and tackled the uncomfortableness that came with graduate school. The cherry on top was finishing my master's with a 4.0 GPA, my hard work felt validated."

Omori said now that he has a master's degree he's looking to work with teams, individuals, or organizations as a mental performance consultant and/or coach.

"One way of thinking about my profession is as the strength and conditioning coach for your mind. I won't be able to help you get stronger or move faster, but I can help figure out what steps we need



Kanata Omori poses with his mother, Anna Rose, and brother, Manatsu, during his graduation at the University of Denver with a Masters of Arts in Sport and Performance Psychology. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

to take to get you to the level you want to be consistently. I want to help people bring out their best performance when-

ever the time arises. In order to do this there is a lot of training that can be done. Some topics I have helped clients with are

confidence, focus, communication, arousal and anxiety regulation, etc. I want to help athletes play at their best and

feel at their best whenever they are competing," he said.

Omori also thanked his friends and former teammates back home, especially his former team, the Rollers.

"In 2017 I took a gap year from my bachelors and flew back home to Saipan. While I was there I spent time as an intern at the Public School System (shout out to the Accountability, Research, and Evaluation team, especially to my bosses Lynette Villagomez and Mr. Tigilau) and as a coach for the Rollers Basketball Association (thank you to coach Joe Diaz and board members for allowing me to be part of the organization)."

And it was during that gap year dabbling in coaching basketball that he realized his calling.

"As a coach it was very apparent to me that my players had more skill than I ever did. I couldn't add much to their technique, so I helped them by giving them options to think of or giving them a little more motivation. We had a tournament in Guam where one of our teams fell just short of making the championship game, in that moment I thought to myself 'I wish

See ROLLERS on Page 23

## Shirlyn Jones tops O'Aces Alumni Golf Charity Classic

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Sports club Ol'Aces held its inaugural O'Aces Alumni Golf Charity Classic last July 31 with Shirlyn Jones winning the double Peoria competition at the Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club.

Sofia Heras came in second, while many time CNMI national golfer and 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair, Marco Peter, completed the Top. 3. The rest of the Top 10 was made up of Luis "Jun" Iguel, Tom Tebuteb, Carl Hocog, K-Joe, Ed Kapileo, Daron Jones, and Jerald Guerrero. A total of 37 golfers took part in the tourney, held in the CNMI's oldest golf course.

In the closet to the pin Carl Hocog won in hole No. 1, while Luis Iguel Jr. and Leo Ruluk were without peers in holes No. 2 and 5, respectively. Tony Satur took the plum in hole No. 6,



Shirlyn Jones puts during the O'Aces Alumni Golf Charity Classic last July 31 at the Saipan Vegas Golf Resort & Slot Club. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

while Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola got the prize in hole No. 7. Ned Norita out-clubbed everyone to win the longest drive in hole No. 9.

Longtime Ol'Aces coach Eli Rangamar said the O'Aces Alumni Golf Charity Classic marked the 46th anniversary of Ol'Aces club which was established back in 1975. The event also honored the Original Ol'Aces youth squad which featured nine members with coach Tony Satur and founder/managers Tom Saures and the late Joe Limes.

"Plaques were awarded to the above mentioned individuals. The event was supposed to have kicked off its 45th year anniversary last year but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event got postponed. Also honored for their contributions to the club where the late Jess Wabol and Bob Coldeen for their influence, role, and contribution to See SHIRLYN on Page 23



Bridge Capital LLC vice president/general manager Bartley Jackson, center, donates \$1,200 on Aug. 5, 2021, at the company corporate office in Garapan for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, tournament committee member Catherine Perry, tournament committee chair Glenn Policare, Jackson, Bridge Capital Property manager Don Hallmark, and Bridge Capital office manager Julie Ann Duenas. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Bridge Capital is Deluxe Sponsor for 2021 HANMI golf tourney**



Bridge Capital LLC has signed on as a Deluxe Sponsor for 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort, donated

\$1,200 cash to the cause. The tournament will benefit the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

"Bridge Capital has been a supporter of countless community events for as long as I can remember," said See BRIDGE on Page 23